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Highlights

National Security Advisor and NISS Chief sworn in today

Lt. Gen. Salah Abdalla “Goush” and Gen. Mohamed Atta-el-Moula were sworn in yesterday as National Security Advisor and National Intelligence and Security Service Chief respectively, report **local dailies**. The ceremony was officiated by President Al-Bashir and Chief Justice Jalal-el-Din Mohamed.

Following the ceremony, National Security Advisor Salah Abdalla said that the newly established position of National Security Advisor was in response to earlier recommendations he made to the Presidency to combine the various security organs into one entity to face the many complex challenges of the country.

On his part, new security chief, Mohamed Atta-el-Moula vowed to exert efforts to safeguard and consolidate peace and security in the country and to work for the democratisation process.

Committee to discuss compensations for southern Sudanese in oil areas

The Parliamentary Committee on Energy meets today in Khartoum to discuss issues pertaining to the compensations paid by the Energy Ministry and oil companies to southern Sudanese affected by the oil industry, reports **Al-Rai Al-Aam**. The federal and GoSS Ministers of Energy, the GoSS Minister for Environment, concerned county authorities in southern Sudan and a number of southern Sudanese chiefs will attend the meeting which will also determine who is responsible for obstructing oil exploration.

Galwak Roun, the head of the Parliamentary Committee on Energy said that citizens had been complaining of not receiving the compensations while the Ministry of Energy and the oil companies say they have remitted the funds. Without elaborating, he pointed out that the ministry may have paid these funds of the funds may have been seized by some parties.

Southern Sudan humanitarian situation “very difficult” – state minister

State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Dr. Abdul Bagie Al-Gailani has described the humanitarian situation in southern Sudan as very difficult, referring to the acute food gap in some areas in the south, **SUNA** reports.

Al-Gailani added in a statement to SUNA that besides the failure of the agricultural season due to scarcity of rains, this situation was brought by inter-tribal fighting, and violence in parts of Jonglei, Warrap and Bahr-al-Ghazal and by LRA activities in Western Equatoria.

Al-Geilani called for concerted tribal reconciliation efforts.

South Sudan governors told to initiate Commissioners Forum

(**Sudantribune.com** Juba – 16/08/09) The Vice President of Southern Sudan has directed the governors of the ten states of the region to initiate a forum that would bring together county commissioners in their respective states. He stressed the importance of replicating the type of forum at the state level where challenges could be comprehensively identified and solutions sought with county commissioners before the next forum at the level of the Government of Southern Sudan.

In his closing remarks on Saturday ending the 6-day Governors’ Forum in Juba, Dr. Riek Machar told the state governors to share with their various organs of government the resolutions and recommendations adopted during the forum.

Resolutions and recommendations were passed at the Governors' Forum during which discussions on insecurity and corruption in the region dominated the deliberations. Ministers, members of parliament, intellectuals and representatives of international development partners attended.

The Forum recommended that a comprehensive disarmament of civil population be carried out to try to significantly reduce the level of insecurity caused by possession of firearms by civilians in the region. The meeting also recommended further implementation of public service reform policy and programmes in order to reduce corruption.

The Forum also discussed the status of preparations for the upcoming general elections in April 2010 and referendum for the people of Southern Sudan and Abyei in January 2011 and recommended further implementation of decentralization policy by devolving more powers including fiscal ones to lower levels of government.

Five killed in clash between soldier, traders in Wau

(**SUNA** via BBC Monitoring 16/08/09) Five people were killed in Wau today in a clash between an SPLA soldier and a number of livestock traders. The soldier and four traders were killed in the clash. Members from the government of Western Bahr-al-Ghazal and the state's security committee rushed to the scene in Luko village. Acting Governor Awadh Juma Aman, who is also the Minister of Local Government expressed regret over the incident and affirmed his government's determination to preserve security and stability. He went on to say that the situation was now calm after the incident, which he described as limited.

NCP wants federal agencies to probe murder of Equatoria female leader

(**Sudantribune.com** Khartoum – 16/08/09) The National Congress Party wants federal agencies involved in investigating the murder on Friday of the head of its Women's Desk in Yambio, Western Equatoria. Mariam Biringi was killed when armed men raided her house in Yambio the capital of Western Equatoria State and asked the victim to give them the money she had received from the NCP on Friday evening at 11:00 pm local time.

Kamal Obeid, the NCP secretary of information announced the demand following a meeting of the Political sector of his party on Sunday where the murder had been discussed.

"We see the participation of the federal criminal investigation body is very necessary to achieve justice." He further said that the NCP considers the assassination of the head of Women's desk in WES as "political targeting of its political leadership in southern Sudan."

He also asserted that the NCP would continue its activities and hold the regional meetings as scheduled.

Unity State doctors and workers go on strike

Spokesperson for the SPLM in Unity State, Peter Kuong, reports that conditions are declining in the state and doctors and workers are on strike because of lack of pay, **Al-Khartoum** reports. He pointed out that state employees have not been paid for the last six months. He also called on the state government to ease travel restrictions to the north to allow people seek alternative means of livelihood elsewhere.

SPLM politburo convenes in Juba

The SPLM Political Office convened in Juba yesterday, **Al-Sahafa** reports. Participants are expected to discuss today key issues including progress in the implementation of the CPA. Observers expect the meetings to culminate today in keynote resolutions on a number of issues of contention with the NCP.

NEC to hold consultation over elections with political parties

The National Elections Commission hosts a meeting today to consult some 25 political parties on the electoral process in the country, reports *Al-Sahafa*. The meeting is a follow up to its recent meeting with the political parties.

Western Equatoria may not go to the polls, governor says

Western Equatoria State may not participate in the forthcoming general elections due to insecurity caused by continuous attacks by the LRA in the area, Governor Nunna Kumba told the recently-concluded Southern Sudan Governors' Conference in Juba. She pointed out that it would be difficult to bring the people in the state to vote because continued LRA attacks have left them scattered all over the state, reports the *Juba Post*.

NCP tells parties to clarify their views on the elections

"Political parties should clarify to the people their views on the elections and whether or not they will participate," said Kamal Obeid, NCP Organizational and Political Affairs Officer and State Minister for Information, following a meeting of the NCP political office. The meeting held yesterday discussed relations with the political forces and preparations for the forthcoming elections, reports *Al-Rai Al-Aam*.

Obeid told the press that the NCP is displeased with the poor preparations on the side of the other political parties for the elections and the negative signals they send about a possible boycott.

He warned today the opposition parties that any action to stop next year's elections would threaten the political stability in the country and endanger the implementation of the CPA.

The NCP was reacting to the threat of boycott issued yesterday by some 24 opposition parties.

US special envoy in Sudan amid growing criticism

(*Sudantribune.com* Washington, 16/08/09) US Special Envoy Scott Gration is in Khartoum amidst growing criticisms in the US on his strategy of engagement with Khartoum.

The head of the US Bureau at the Sudanese foreign ministry Nasr-al-din Wali said the visit comes under the framework of continuing consultations between the tripartite mechanism that also includes the NCP and SPLM. The US official will fly to Juba and Malakal in South Sudan and Al-Fasher in Darfur to inspect IDP camps, Wali added.

This week the Sudanese presidential adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail said that his government wants the US to change its "negative" stance on the Darfur crisis to a "positive" one "through true partnership".

Gration has caused uproar among Darfur advocacy groups after he testified at the US Senate last month calling for easing sanctions against Sudan and lifting it from the state sponsor of terrorism. At home, Darfur advocacy groups sent a letter to Gration deploring his strategy in dealing with Sudan saying that he is "at odds with the President Obama's promise and will quash the hopes of all Sudanese for justice, peace, and the end of the culture of impunity that has afflicted Sudan,".

However, in an interview with *Reuters* later Gration appeared to reverse his stance saying his statements were misunderstood.

Demining operations suspended

The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs has announced it is suspending humanitarian demining operations until further notice due to lack of funding, and the onset of the rainy season, *SMC*

reports.

We will not wait for Abdulwahid to start Doha talks, government says

Government has cautiously welcomed recent statements by JEM that they are prepared for the next round of talks in Doha next month but said the movement should balance words with actions, *Al-Intibaha* reports. Amin Hassan Omar, Sudan's chief mediator to the Doha talks, said that the government is prepared to talk with anyone who seeks peace but warned that they would not wait for SLM leader Abdulwahid Nur to start the forthcoming round of talks in Doha.

Khalil Ibrahim briefs joint UN-AU envoy on JEM plan for peace in Darfur

JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim said, following talks in Libya yesterday, that he presented to UN-AU Joint Mediator for Darfur, Djibriel Bassole, a framework peace agreement on Darfur, reports *Al-Sahafa*. He denied reports that he sought a venue change for the Doha talks to take place in Libya.

He revealed that the draft contained suggestions for radical solutions to the problems of the region as well as clauses on wealth and power sharing, security arrangements, the rights of the citizens and the future of the JEM forces. He said that the Sudan government was "not willing to pay the price of peace."

Darfur rebel group field commanders freeze leader's activities

(*Al-Sahafa* via BBC Monitoring 16/08/09) Field commanders of SLM/A have decided to "freeze the activities of SLM leader Abdulwahid Muhammad Nur and have delegated regional leaders to handle the affairs of the Movement until the meeting of the SLM Military Council convenes. The manifesto that was issued yesterday was signed by Maj. Ismail Adam (Abu-Danlag), Yusuf Garang, Abd-al-Karim Abdallah, Adam Muhammad Ahmad Al-Wali, Adam Muhammad Abkar Bashar, Musa Muhammad Musa, Jaffar Adam Ali, Jaffer Siddig, Kashin Ibrahim, Alhadi Adam Al-Tom, Siddig Tori and Ayyoub Mohamed Takanj.