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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations and the Transition Debate

UN envoy discusses Darfur with AU, Sudan officials

(*United Nations/ST* – 8th Aug. **Khrt.**) The UN special envoy to Sudan held high-level talks today on Darfur with an adviser to Sudanese President Omar al Bashir and the AU special representative in Sudan.

Jan Pronk, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, met with Presidential adviser Majzoub Al-Khalifa and Ambassador Baba Gana Kingibe, the Special Representative of the AU Commission Chairperson in Sudan, a UN spokesman told reporters in New York.

Pronk also attended a swearing-in ceremony yesterday for a leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), Minni Minawi, who was appointed a Special Assistant to the President and ex-officio head of the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority, the spokesman added.

In May, the Sudanese Government and several rebel groups signed the Darfur Peace Agreement but the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the AbdulWahid faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) refused to accept the accord.

President al Bashir has agreed on the need to strengthen the AU force in Sudan and consolidate the peace accord but has so far rejected the idea of a UN operation as being colonial or having a hidden objective, a charge that Secretary-General Kofi Annan and other world body officials have repeatedly rejected. The AU has itself called for UN peacekeepers to take over in Darfur.

United Nations calls for urgent solution to the problems of Other Armed Groups

(*AlAyaam* – 9th Aug. **Khrt.**) UNMIS has called upon the Other Armed Groups Collaborative Committee to come up with urgent solutions to the issue of armed militias described in the CPA as Other Armed Groups.

Spokesperson Radhia Achouri told *AlAyaam* that bringing an end to the issue of OAGs is an important requisite for peace.

Achouri said that these armed groups disturb the security in southern Sudan and urgent solutions must be found to resolve the issue.

Landmine explodes in Juba injuring a United Nations soldier

(*AlSahafa* – 9th Aug. **Juba**) A landmine exploded in near late Garang's memorial in Juba yesterday seriously injuring a United Nations soldier.

Preliminary investigations proved that the landmine has been in the place since the days of the war.

The soldier has been taken to hospital for treatment.

Government handed over to the United Nations last Thursday its plans on Darfur

(*AlSahafa* – 9th Aug. **Khrt.**) The government has handed over to the United Nations as agreed since last Thursday its plans to improve the situation in Darfur, says the deputy head of the Sudanese permanent mission to New York.

He declined to go into detail but said the plan consists of three main areas which cover the implementation for the Darfur Peace Agreement, disarmament of the Janjaweed and the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue Conference.

Dr. Omar Adam Rahama who participated in the talks in Abuja that culminated in the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement said that the government plan makes a United Nations intervention unnecessary.

On the situation in Darfur, he said that Chad still backs rebel groups in West and South Darfur but added that yesterday's visit to Chad by the President of the Republic will help consolidate relations between the two governments and restore stability in the region. He also said that the steps the government has taken so far especially in opening up the routes between the regions of Darfur will contribute to voluntary returns of refugees and IDPs to their villages.

Britain pushes UN to disarm Ugandan rebel group

(*Xinhua/ST* – 8th Aug. **Kampala**) Britain is pushing for a draft resolution to the UN Security Council on disarming and demobilizing Uganda's rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) as peace talks between the Ugandan government and rebels continued in Juba, southern Sudan.

"It is still at consultation level, it has not hit the floor of the Security Council," said the source quoted by Daily Monitor on Tuesday that preferred anonymity given the sensitivity of the matter.

"It would have already been tabled but I guess Lebanon still has all the spotlight," added the source, referring to the intense fight between Israeli army and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

"But the movers of this resolution have consulted your (Ugandan) government at the highest level and received a positive nod," the source said.

The Security Council only evokes chapter 7 of the UN charter when responding to actions that are a threat to peace and acts of aggression using whatever means deemed appropriate including and not limited to the use of force.

Uganda's Foreign Affairs Minister Sam Kutesa said it was the Ugandan government that called for Security Council's intervention about five months ago.

It is reported that the resolution seeks to appoint a UN special envoy on the LRA given the gravity of the matter. According to the UN and government sources, former Mozambican President Joachim Chissano is highly considered for this assignment.

"He has not been fully appointed but he is currently being consulted by the Secretary General (Kofi Annan)," Kutesa said.

Chissano arrived at Uganda last Friday and held meetings with President Yoweri Museveni and Kutesa before he concluded the visit on Monday.

Kutesa downplayed the notion that this initiative could stand in the way of peace negotiations, which aimed to end the two-decade insurgency of the LRA in northern Uganda, one of Africa's longest conflicts.

CPA

NCP, SPLM form three panels for Sudan's CPA pending issues

(*ST, AlAyaam* – 9th Aug. **Khrt.**) The Parties to the CPA have resolved in a meeting Sudanese yesterday to form three joint sub-committees on political, security and economic aspects of the outstanding issues in the implementation of the CPA.

A meeting will be held later today to name the heads of these sub-committees after which the committees will immediately set out to work.

SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum said that the two parties agreed that the Joint Political Committee will continue its meetings on Wednesday to review political issues, topics relating to the partnership between the National Congress and the SPLM and on the general situation in the country.

The Wednesday meeting, he added, will review issues pertaining to foreign policy, information and ways to overcome the differences between the two partners to the GoNU.

The SPLM Secretary-General further said that the issue of the Abyei area will be discussed by the relevant sub-committee of the Joint Political Committee.

Umma Party refers its former combatants to the DDR Commission

(*AlSudani* – 9th Aug. **Khrt.**) The head of the DDR Commission, Salaf-el-deen Saleh, says he held a meeting earlier with representatives of the Umma party with the view of resolving the issue of the party's military wing, the Umma Army.

The Umma Party, on its part, circulated statements yesterday confirming that the issue of its army has been referred to the DDR Commission.

SAF insists on the disarmament of southern Sudanese militias through DDR commission

(*AlHayat* – 9th Aug. **Khrt.**) A meeting was held yesterday in Khartoum between the SAF and the SSDF to discuss the issue of southern Sudanese militia forces that have not yet joined either of the armies recognised by the CPA.

El-Toum Daldoum of the SSDF said that during the meeting, the SAF noted that only the mechanisms of the CJMC and the DDR Commission should the armed factions be disarmed.

Southern Sudan/GoSS/SPLM

Sudan's SPLM office in Nairobi attacked

(*Agencies/ST* – 8th Aug. **Nairobi**) Five people who work at the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement office in Nairobi are nursing serious injuries which they sustained after unidentified assailants attacked them and doused them with corrosive acid.

The five victims are at Nairobi Hospital where they are still receiving treatment, the Kenyan NTV reported Tuesday.

The five victims were returning to the SPLA offices in Lavington after their lunch break, but when they arrived at the office's main gate, unidentified people emerged from another car and flagged them down. They were doused with acid in a scuffle that ensued.

Kenyan police said the incident may have been sparked by an internal dispute in the SPLM. As the police continue with their investigations, unconfirmed reports say that the incident was over ownership of the offices.

"Preliminary investigations indicate the two groups have been feuding over the office," said Herbat Khaemba, commander of Nairobi's Kilimani police division where the SPLM office in the upscale Lavington area is located.

Four of those injured are Sudanese nationals while the fifth victim is a Kenyan.

Office administrator Jackline Chuol said the five injured administrative workers had been admitted to hospital and that the SPLM, which now runs the government of autonomous southern Sudan, was unaware of any possible motive.

The SPLM liaison office, based in the former home of late rebel leader John Garang, serves as a de facto embassy for the government and assists tens of thousands of southern Sudanese refugees living in Kenya.

Governor rejects relocation of C. Equatoria capital out of Juba

(*SRS/ST* – 8th Aug. **Juba**) The Governor of Central Equatoria State (CES), Clement Wani Konga has reiterated his opposition to the relocating of the CES capital from Juba to another area.

Governor Konga said that Juba is a central point between Eastern and Western Equatoria and should remain as the state capital. He added that he is consulting with other leaders on the issue but the last decision will come from the people of the state.

In accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the government of Southern Sudan has decided that Juba is the capital of Southern Sudan. GoSS also decided to transfer the CES headquarters from Juba to Yei.

But this decision finds opposition of CES people and officials. They want Juba to remain both the capital of South Sudan and Central Equatoria State. It seems that GoSS efforts to convince Bari dignitaries are unproductive for the time being.

Clement Wani told Sudan Radio Service: "Central Equatoria is an established state since the colonial period with its capital in Juba. In which also southern Sudan was here after the Addis Ababa agreement, nothing of that kind took place. When the Khartoum peace

agreement was signed the capital of southern Sudan was also brought to Juba and they coexisted. So what is the difference? Is southern Sudan an independent state now?"

For GoSS the lands that are essentially classified as government property could hardly suffice the growing needs. Also the surrounding indigenous communities are blocking any further expansion of the town into their traditional communal lands.

Many Bari leaders say GoSS officials want to control their land and do business to the detriment of the Bari. They ask the government to remove displaced people from the area and develop the two levels of administration.

Authorities put down violence in Melut

(*AlKhartoum* – 9th Aug. **Khrt.**) A spokesperson for the SPLM in Melut has downplayed the recent violence that erupted in the area following an accident involving the driver of a petroleum company and a local resident the day before yesterday.

Onlookers rushed to the site of the accident and were threatening to beat up the driver of the truck but authorities came in to arrest the situation.

Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement

SLM and SPLM to coordinate

(*AlHayat* – 9th Aug. **Khrt.**) The SPLM and the Minnawi faction of the SLM have assured during a meeting yesterday between Minnawi and Pagan Amum, that they will exert efforts to implement the DPA.

The meeting also focused on the coordination between the two parties to implement the CPA, the repatriation of refugees and the IDPs and efforts to bring holdout rebel groups on board the DPA, Minnawi told reporters.

Sudan and Chad restore diplomatic ties

(*AFP, AlRai AlAam* – 9th Aug. **N'Djamena**) Chad and Sudan on Tuesday decided to "put a definitive end to their differences" and immediately normalise relations, broken off in last April.

Chadian President Idriss Deby and his Sudanese counterpart Omer al-Bashir promised a "solemn commitment to put a definitive end to their differences by immediately normalising diplomatic and economic relations", according to a statement from the Chadian government after a mini-summit between the two leaders.

The meeting, set up by Libyan leader Muamer Gadhaffi, took place in N'Djamena on the sidelines of the investiture of Deby, who was re-elected on May 3.

"The ministers of foreign affairs of Chad and Sudan will very shortly meet to settle all the details of this normalisation," the statement said.

The two leaders decided to immediately reopen their common border and respective embassies, a high-ranking Chad official said.

The leaders also said they were committed "to working to reinforce peace between the two countries," the official said.

Deby nevertheless "insisted on the presence of a neutral force to watch over the two countries' borders," he added.

On the other hand, the NRF says it has received an official request from Chad that it leave Chadian territory.

Dakar is to contribute to the DPA

(*AlHayat* – 9th Aug. **Khrt.**) Senegalese president Abdullah Wade has expressed his country's readiness to contribute to the success of the Abuja talks and has offered to host talks with the holdout rebels in Dakar.

Observers have welcomed the move and described the initiative as a positive tool to put an end to the crisis in Darfur.

Eastern Sudan

Eastern Front rebels demand a billion dollars in compensations

(*AlSahafa* – 9th Aug. **Asmara**) A source close to the talks in Asmara between the Sudan government and the Eastern Front says the talks have resumed at the level of joint technical committees.

He points out however that the two sides are not in agreement over a proposal by the Eastern Front for the formation of a joint development fund for the areas affected by the war in the east and the initial sum of 1 billion dollars to be put there.

The government side argues that there is already a committee on the development of eastern Sudan that has been operational for the last two years.