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IN THE NEWS TODAY:**➤ United Nations and the Transition Debate**

- UK presents to the Security Council a draft resolution on Darfur
- Government reiterates decision not to allow in United Nations troops
- United Nations has not been asked to comment on the Darfur plan
- UNMIS says the SAF is not involved in supporting southern Sudanese militia
- United Nations vehicles disappear in unclear circumstances
- Presidential advisor describes United Nations pullout from eastern Sudan as an acid test
- Government of North Kordofan requests review of waiver on United Nations chartered aircraft

➤ CPA

- National Congress Party, SPLM to continue talks on Abyei on Monday; agree to go for a political solution to the problem

➤ GoNU

- Sudanese president urges support to unity government
- SAF rejects international offer from US security firm to modernize
- Police put in place new measures to regulate market clean-up campaigns

➤ Southern Sudan/GoSS/SPLM

- Ugandan army says troops kill wanted rebel
- Ministerial reshuffle soon expected in the GoSS
- SPLM demands complete investigation into Nairobi attack
- South Sudan deports 53 Kenyans
- Uganda-LRA rebel talks adjourned to Monday
- Ugandan govt ready for ceasefire - report

➤ Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement

- Sudan announces arrest of AU translator killer
- African Union opens Darfur Peace Agreement Implementation office in Khartoum
- 789 cases of watery diarrhoea reported in South Darfur

➤ Eastern Sudan

- Eastern Front denies rifts within ranks

HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations and the Transition Debate

UK presents to the Security Council a draft resolution on Darfur

(*AlSudani* – 12th Aug. **Khrt.**) The UK is trying to push for a mandate from the Security Council to deploy United Nations forces to Darfur under a Chapter VI mandate, sources report.

Efforts are also said to be underway to try to convince the Sudan government to accept the mandate but high rank sources within the government say the government is categorically against the draft especially after it has been found out that the designs being concocted against the Sudan are but an attempt to use the international body to dismantle the regime in Khartoum and replace it with a regime headed by a non-Arab ruler and thus turn the ruling system here like that in Nigeria where a non-Muslim minority lead the Muslim majority.

The sources say that the pressures the international community exerted on Minnawi to sign the Darfur Peace Agreement was in order to facilitate the deployment of the United Nations troops to Darfur.

It is worth mentioning that the United Nations troops deployed to southern Sudan by virtue of the CPA are under a Chapter VI mandate.

Government reiterates decision not to allow in United Nations troops

(*AlSahafa* – 13th Aug. **Khrt.**) The Sudan government said it will adhere to the plan it presented last week to the United Nations on resolving the problem of Darfur and will not accept any proposals from the United Nations or the Security Council for the deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur under any mandate except that of a Chapter VIII that calls for United Nations support for regional organisations.

Ambassador Jamal Mohamed, the spokesperson for the Sudanese foreign ministry, said that the United Nations may be having its own deliberations on the issue and may have a different opinion to the government plan. He pointed out however that SRSg Jan Pronk's recent statements [*during the press conference of 9th August last week*] on the plan is but his personal and unofficial view. The spokesperson said however that the doors remain open for dialogue over the government plan.

He said that the document has not yet been made public.

He further revealed that the Security Council has plans to issue resolutions [*on Darfur*] under a Chapter VI mandate with elements of Chapter VII similar to the recent resolution issued on Lebanon.

Majzoub el-Khalifa, Presidential Advisor, revealed (*according to AlAyaam, 12th August*) that the government plan for a possible United Nations role in Darfur covers 9 areas and grants the United Nations the right to assist in humanitarian arrangements, support the AMIS and monitor human rights, among other things.

The plan, he adds, also focuses on disarmament of the Janjaweed, stripping the rebel groups of their heavy artillery and determining lines of disengagement between the forces.

The advisor also said that the plan proposes the creation of a 12,000-strong joint force of the SAF (8,000) and the signatory rebel groups (4,000) to enhance security in areas of return.

United Nations has not been asked to comment on the Darfur plan

(*AlRai AlAam* – 12th Aug. **Khrt.**) The Special Envoy of the President of the Republic to the Darfur regions has echoed the rejection to a United Nations intervention in Darfur.

Gen. el-Dabi criticised the recent statements by SRSF Jan Pronk over some “reservations” towards the government plan on Darfur.

He said that the United Nations was informed only for its information and not for comments on the plan. Only the African Union, he add, has the mandate to discuss the plan and comment on the mechanisms for implementation.

UNMIS says the SAF is not involved in supporting southern Sudanese militia

(*Akhbar Alyaum* – 13th Aug. **Khrt.**) UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri says the United Nations has no evidence the SAF as an institution is supporting southern Sudanese militias.

She told *Akhbar Alyaum* that the United Nations has the impression there are some elements in the north of the country who support these southern militias but this is not an National Congress Party or GoNU endeavour.

She urged the Presidency of the Republic to move quickly to resolve the problems of Abyei and underlined the need to take measures on the ground to realise peaceful coexistence between the tribes of the region before a legal and political settlement is reached on the issue.

United Nations vehicles disappear in unclear circumstances

(*AlSahafa* – 12th Aug. **Khrt.**) 3 United Nations vehicles have disappeared under unclear circumstance from a United Nations office a couple of weeks ago, it has been reported.

Reliable sources say a 14-seatre mini-bus and 2 Toyota Prado 4x4s belonging to the United Nations mission have been lost but no investigation has been opened into the issue.

The sources did not hide their fears that these vehicles may be used to carry out crimes that may bring the United Nations into disrepute.

Presidential advisor describes United Nations pullout from eastern Sudan as an acid test

(*AlSudani* – 12th Aug. **Khrt.**) Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail has described the United Nations pullout from eastern Sudan as an acid test of mutual trust between the organisation and the government.

He revealed that the United Nations has been complaining about an escalation in media campaigns against it.

AlSudani has also been informed that the United Nations has instructed its staff to be vigilant and minimize their movements for the sake of their security.

Government of North Kordofan requests review of waiver on United Nations chartered aircraft

(*AlIntibaha* – 12th Aug. **el-Obeid**) The Government of North Kordofan has called on the authorities to review the agreement that grants United Nations aircraft a waiver on airport and other charges at the el-Obeid airport.

Speaking to the press, the state governor says his government has requested the foreign affairs and interior ministries and UNMIS headquarters to review the waiver because “el-Obeid Airport has become a United Nations logistics base”.

He pointed out that the United Nations is using chartered aircraft and that the law does not exempt such aircraft from the mandatory fees.

CPA

National Congress Party, SPLM to continue talks on Abyei on Monday; agree to go for a political solution to the problem

(*AlAyaam, AlRai AlAam*) The National Party and the SPLM have agreed to defer further discussions of the Abyei issue to the meeting next Monday between the partners.

The parties have however submitted to the necessity for a political solution to the conflict.

GoNU

Sudanese president urges support to unity government

(*ST* – 12th Aug. **Khrt**) President Omer al-Bashir, has called on the Sudanese people, groups and political parties to work together with the national unity government toward realization of unity and accord.

He said that the peace agreements which were signed in Sudan have ended the war and paved the way for peace, security and development. He said that the government declares amnesty for any one who held arms against the nation and returns home.

Bashir made this call at a celebration of the Military Academy marking graduation of new batches of officers at the National Defence and the Higher War Academy.

He stressed the importance of the unity of rank and stance as well as adherence to love, accord and peace between the Sudanese people.

Bashir said that all the Sudanese people shall unite to attain development, progress and prosperity, stressing that Sudan obtains all the capabilities and potentialities for this progress, especially the fertile lands, strong will, faith and the lofty values and virtues.

He expressed his pleasure over the graduation of the learners at the two sessions, and

SAF rejects international offer from us security firm to modernize

(*AlSahafa* – 13th Aug. **Khrt.**) SPLA spokesperson, Mjr. Gen. Bior Ajang, says however that the SPLA has not contracted any such company.

He said that the United Nations, and not the private firm, had proposed a plan to modernize the Joint Integrated Units, and not the SPLA, but this has been turned down by the SAF.

He said however that the SPLA intends to lay off a number of its combatants as part of the re-structuring plan it is currently working on.

Police put in place new measures to regulate market clean-up campaigns

(*AlRai AlAam* – 13th Aug. **Khrt.**) The chief of police has issued directives that no police clean-up or security campaigns will be carried out in the market except under the command of police officers.

Only uniformed police personnel are allowed to carry out such operations [*the rounding up and arrest of peddlers, etc. commonly being carried out in the markets in Khartoum*].

Southern Sudan/GoSS/SPLM

Ministerial reshuffle soon expected in the GoSS

(*Allintibaha* – 12th Aug. **Khrt /Juba**) Informed sources report that the President of the GoSS may soon order a reshuffle in his cabinet to allow for more participation of the National Congress Party.

The sources attribute this move to the failure of the SPLM-elected to run the affairs of their positions and the many protests from the citizens, the civil society organisations and opposition parties that no progress has been made ever since the SPLM took the reigns of office.

Governors may also face the reshuffle following recent corruption scandals, the sources add.

SPLM demands complete investigation into Nairobi attack

(*The Nation/STT* – 11th Aug. **Nai.**) The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) has urged Kenyan authorities for meticulous investigations into the attack of its five employees with corrosive acid August and the arrest of the culprits.

The movement urged police to extend their investigations beyond the alleged conflict between two camps at the SPLM regional office in Nairobi where the attack took place on Tuesday 8 August, Kenyan daily newspaper Nation reported.

Police traced the motive of the attack to last month's transfer of the Sudan Relief Rehabilitation Commission from Ngong Road to the SPLM regional office on Mijikenda Road, Lavington.

"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.

Ms Jackie Chole, an administrator at the SPLM regional office, said four victims of the attack work under the commission while the other is attached to the regional office and called for thorough investigation. The commission is the humanitarian wing of the movement.

Kilimani division police boss H. Khaemba said detectives had recorded statements from witnesses, including SPLM staff.

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.

South Sudan deports 53 Kenyans

(The Standard – 11th Aug. Nai.) Fifty-three Kenyans have been deported from Southern Sudan for allegedly working without work permits.

The deportees were arrested on August 2 in Juba and have been in police custody since. They are now being held at the Lokichoggio Police Station, waiting to be transported to Nairobi and later to their homes.

Most of those affected have been dealing in food and second hand clothes. Some of those who spoke to The Standard from Lokichoggio claimed that Sudanese policemen beat them up. They also claimed that the police confiscated their properties.

"The policemen caned us. They also told us that they did not need Kenyans there," said one victim.

Joseph Kiarie said the police, with the help of the locals, rounded them up, claiming that they were there illegally.

He added: "They were shouting obscenities at us saying they did not need Kenyans."

Kiarie said they sought for help from a Kenyan consulate, a Mr Macharia, but did not hear from him. He said some Sudanese businessmen complained of unfair competition from the Kenyans. The deportees arrived on Wednesday after riding on a lorry for about 350kms.

Uganda-LRA rebel talks adjourned to Monday

(Reuters/ST – 12th Aug. Juba) Talks between Ugandan negotiators and Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) representatives were adjourned for two days on Saturday after both sides failed to agree terms for a cessation of hostilities, officials said.

The rebels declared a unilateral ceasefire a week ago but then refused to attend more talks hosted by the regional government of southern Sudan unless Kampala followed suit.

On Friday, LRA officials were summoned by south Sudan's President Salva Kiir to explore ways of breaking the deadlock.

"The president gave us some wise counsel ... about their experiences and challenges during his government's 21-year struggle," said LRA spokesman Obonyo Olweny. "We have now been given two days to consult our principals on the way forward."

Kampala says it will only sign a ceasefire as part of a comprehensive peace agreement, saying the elusive guerrilla group has used previous truces to regroup, recruit and re-arm.

"We are now going for a two-day recess," the spokesman for the Ugandan delegation, Captain Paddy Ankunda, told Reuters.

"We are ready to continue discussions with the LRA then sign an agreement, after which we go into the implementation stage."

South Sudan's government says it wants to broker an end to the LRA's 20-year insurrection, which has uprooted nearly two million people in northern Uganda and destabilised south Sudan.

Southern Sudan's former rebels fought their own two-decade civil war with the northern government based in Khartoum, which ended in a peace deal last year.

Ugandan govt ready for ceasefire - report

(ST – 12th Aug. **Kampala**) The Ugandan government is ready to declare a ceasefire with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) on condition that the rebels agree to discuss terms, and sign a final peace deal, local newspaper New Vision reported on Saturday.

"The Uganda delegation has presented its position on item No.5 of the agenda on disarmament, demobilization and re-integration," Uganda Media Center Director Robert Kabushenga was quoted as saying.

This was a part of the Uganda government position declared on Friday at the on-going peace talks in Juba, south Sudan.

"The government is ready to sign a comprehensive agreement. The ball is at the hands of the mediator and the LRA. We have done our bit," Kabushenga said.

Meanwhile, Ruhakana Rugunda, head of the Ugandan government delegation, is returning to Kampala for a private event. During the period, Ugandan senior official Henry Okello Oryem will lead the team in the on-going talks.

The talks mediated by the southern Sudanese authorities had stalled after the LRA delegation refused to return to the negotiation table, demanding a reciprocation of their unilateral declaration of a cessation of hostilities.

However, the government team maintained its stance that it would not verbally and unilaterally declare a ceasefire, insisting that everything had to be discussed and signed.

Oryem described the situation as "a storm in a tea cup" and said the government team would wait for the LRA to return to the talks because it has 20 million Ugandans to account to.

"We hope to resume. We don't think all is lost. These peace talks are important and a few people should not derail them," he said.

The LRA team stayed at their residence at Juba Bridge camp, while their chairman Martin Ojulu said they would not budge even an inch.

"We are not going there (Juba Raha, the venue for the talks). We have not got any communication from the chief mediator. We want the government to declare a cessation of hostilities.

Oryem said after the government team presented its position paper for a cessation of hostilities and ceasefire, it expected the LRA to do the same.

Oryem said although the LRA declared cessation of hostilities, it was raiding camps in Amuru, Pader and Gulu for food and abducting people.

He said after a monitoring team and assembly areas for the rebels are agreed upon, a safe passage would be created for the LRA. Those outside would be considered hostile.

The peace talks, scheduled to resume on Monday, are seen as another chance to end the 20-year-old LRA rebellion in northern Uganda which has left tens of thousands of people dead and over 1.4 million others homeless.

Ugandan army says troops kill wanted rebel

(*Reuters/ST* – 13th Aug. **Nai.**) Uganda's military said on Sunday it had killed a senior northern rebel wanted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Raska Lukwiya was one of five commanders from the elusive Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) named by the new world court in its first arrest warrants in October.

"We got him yesterday in Kitgum district after he staged an ambush on Friday night. Lukwiya is dead," a Ugandan army spokesman said by telephone. He said the body had been identified by former rebels.

Experts were cautious, saying the Ugandan military has often claimed to have killed top LRA fighters who are later found alive.

The army said Lukwiya's fighters launched at least three raids on Friday on camps for villagers displaced by the fighting in northern Uganda, aimed at looting food and other supplies.

Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement

Sudan announces arrest of AU translator killer

(*ST*- 12th Aug. **Nyala**) Sudan announced Saturday the arrest of the killer of the Sudanese translator who accompanied the U.N. humanitarian chief Jan Egeland during his last visit to South Darfur in May.

South Darfur Governor Al-Haj Atalmanan Idris told state-run SUNA that SLM-Minnawi and the government troops have agreed to protect routes and important sites in order to put an end to the violence and "armed robbery" in the state.

African Union opens Darfur Peace Agreement Implementation office in Khartoum

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 13th Aug. **Khrt.**) The Head of the African Union Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) implementation team in Sudan, Ambassador S. Ibok, yesterday ceremonially

inaugurated the DPA implementation of in Khartoum, Riyadh Block 21. The opening ceremony was attended by, senior representatives of the signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement and various embassies and the United Nations.

Reports recently revealed that the security situation is seriously deteriorating and many people are fleeing their villages. Banditry rapes and fighting continue. The death toll rises and humanitarian organizations are threatened by insecurity, leading to suffering of Darfur people, both in the host communities and IDP camps.

789 cases of watery diarrhoea reported in South Darfur

(*AlSahafa* – 12th Aug. **Nyala**) Cases of infection with watery diarrhoea have increased 4.4%, the regional health minister reports.

Of the 789 cases report, 31 were fatal.

The regional minister said they are trying to enlist the assistance of United Nations agencies, the African Union and other organisations on the issue.

Eastern Sudan

Eastern Front denies rifts within ranks

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 13th Aug. **Khrt.**) The prominent member of the Eastern Front has described as baseless a report in yesterday's edition of the *AlSudani*, and the *AlRai AlShaab* dailies claiming rifts among the ranks of the Eastern Front.

The report claimed that the Eastern Front's negotiators in the talks in Asmara are agents of the Eritrean government and had committed massacres and flagrant violations of human rights and called on the Sudan government to stop negotiating with them and bring them to a just trial.