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Highlights

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North-South border demarcation to devise roadmap

As required by the Presidency, the North-South Technical Border Demarcation Committee has decided to increase its consultations and meetings to draw the border on paper by September, **Al-Raed** reports. It has decided to meet twice a week to speed up its work. The Committee Chairman Abdullah Al-Sadiq said the Committee will meet tomorrow to discuss a roadmap.

Abyei Area Administration rejects new administrative structure

Al-Sahafa reports the Abyei area Chief of Finance Ar Deng as saying the Unity Support Fund has announced its commitment to implement \$50 million worth's of developmental and services projects in the area as of next month. He said the Abyei Area Administration and the Federal Ministry of Finance agreed to implement projects to the tune of 83 million pounds. According to Deng, the Abyei Administration has declared its categorical rejection of the administrative structure proposed by the 4-member committee set up by the Presidency.

Meanwhile, **Sudan Tribune website** 9/5/09 reported NCP senior member and member of the Abyei Council Hon. Majak Matet Ayom as saying during a rally held Saturday at Abyei freedom square that "Abyei belongs to Ngok Dinka".

"Truth should be allowed to flow so peace prevails," he said. "I am reiterating this today albeit the fact that I am a known die-hard supporter of National Congress Party, because truth is never covered even if influences speak in a person."

Hon. Majak, who during oral hearings in The Hague acted as an eyewitness on the government side, is reported to have minced no words on Abyei while being heard by judges.

"Yes, I am an NCP member and an ardent supporter as known, but being a member of the ruling political party should not deny or deprive me of my fundamental right to say what belongs to who and how," he said.

He said people can be from different political parties but still remain citizens of the same area albeit existence of any family differences.

Parliament postpones Press Act debate indefinitely

The National Assembly's Committee of Information and Communication announced that the parliament's debate on the press law has been postponed indefinitely, **Ray Al-Shaab** reports.

JlUs face financial crunch

Local dailies widely circulated the news of the JlUs' complaint about lack of funding. According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, JIU Command told the National Assembly's Defence and Security Committee yesterday that the JlUs are facing financial problems which impede their functioning. JIU commander Maj. Gen. Yahia Mohamed Khair said the Ministry of Finance paid 560 billion pounds which is less than the JlUs' actual financial need. The National Assembly's Defence and Security Committee Chairman Jalal Tawor said the Finance Minister would be summoned for

consultation on this issue. According to **Al-Ayyam**, the Parliament Committee said JIUs in southern Kordofan had not been fully integrated, citing lack of funding, communication equipment and vehicles. **Al-Wifaq** reports JIUs said the Federal Ministry of Finance did not honour its commitment to fund the troops to protect oil fields.

“No Humanitarian crisis currently in Darfur” – John Holmes

“There is no threat of an imminent humanitarian crisis in Darfur but there are gaps in health, water and sanitation,” USG for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes told a press conference yesterday in Khartoum, according to **Sudan Vision**.

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports while USG John Holmes denied his knowledge about US aid agencies coming to replace the ousted INGOs, the paper learned that the government agreed to authorize Save the Children, Care and Mercy Corps to operate and that the government is also considering applications by British and French aid agencies. Holmes told the press conference that his visit was successful; adding the humanitarian situation is affected by the INGO expulsion and UN still wants their readmission.

According to **Al-Sahafa**, Holmes welcomed new US aid agencies with different logos and names to replace the ousted ones and called on the government to provide protection to aid workers. **Al-Sudani** reports Holmes said he had received assurances from NISS DG Gen. Salah Gosh that he would do his best to stop abduction of foreigners. **Al-Akhbar** reports an official source as saying that all preparations have been finalized for the start of work of new aid agencies, citing government’s agreement to receive them. However, Dr. Ahmed Fadlallah of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs said the issue of accepting new aid agencies had not been finalized yet.

Meanwhile, **Akhbar Al-Youm** reports MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq as saying the Sudan government, the UN and the USA are doing their best to achieve stability of the security situation in Darfur. Asked about reports of a government’s move to increase the number of aid agencies in Sudan in the light of the efforts being exerted by the USG Holmes and US Envoy Scott Gration, Al-Sadiq said, “the government is desirous of increasing number of aid groups operating in Darfur despite the inaccuracy of claims of negative impact of the INGO ouster on the humanitarian situation”.

Sudan Tribune website 10/5/09 reported John Holmes said that increased cooperation is needed between aid providers and the Government of Sudan.

“The High-Level Committee and the meetings I had in Khartoum marked positive steps forward in our engagement with the Government of Sudan on policy issues as well as the operating environment, following other recent positive decisions,” he said.

“Agreement was reached on what we hope will be an effective monitoring mechanism at the state, national, and international levels, and a strengthened aid delivery system,” said Holmes in Khartoum, where he had met with senior officials and ministers.

In addition to visiting North Darfur, the UN aid chief on Friday went to Akobo in Jonglei state where tens of thousands civilians have fled recent fighting between the Murle and Nuer tribes, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

New governors and ministers sworn in

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports the newly-appointed governors and ministers took oath of office

yesterday in front of President Al-Bashir. According to **SUNA**, the new Southern Kordofan governor, Ahmed Mohamed Haroun, affirmed that peace building and reactivation of the peace process in the state would be his top priority in the coming stage.

SLM slams Holmes' statement on Darfur improvement

Sudan Tribune website 10/5/09 — A Darfur rebel leader lashed out at statements made by UN relief top official on the improvement of the humanitarian situation in the troubled region, saying more than one and half million people still suffering from the expulsion of aid groups since last March.

"Darfur humanitarian situation is improving thanks to government efforts," USG Holmes said at press conference yesterday in Khartoum.

Abdel Wahid Al-Nur regretted Holmes statements saying this is the saddest statement ever made by a UN relief official because it comes at a time when more than one million and half people in Jebel Marah are deprived from food and medication as direct result of the eviction of 13 aid groups from Darfur.

He also added that 18 displaced camps in Darfur suffer also from the lack of water, food and healthcare due to the expulsion of the international nongovernmental organizations.

Al-Nur said the UN official wanted to reward the Sudanese government to cover his failure to do something for the war affected population. "Holmes can avoid such embarrassing situation by acknowledging his failure," he said. "But with such statements now he is deceiving the world."

Umma Party, PCP sign declaration of principles

Al-Ayyam reports the Sadiq-led National Umma Party and the Al-Turabi-led PCP met to discuss how to address the challenges the country is facing. Their meeting culminated in signing a declaration of principles containing the following points. First; the two parties are of the view that a national/interim government, formed from Sudan's political parties including the NCP, is an appropriate mechanism to address the issue of power sharing in the country. Second; resolution of the Darfur problem should be comprehensive, taking into account Darfurians' legitimate demands (one region, representation in the Presidency with a Vice President, 1956 border, Darfurians should be allowed to select their own representatives, power and wealth should be shared based on population density, individual and collective compensations). Third; justice should be realized through the Sudanese judiciary or a hybrid court failing which appearance before an international court becomes necessary. The statement was signed by Abdullah Hassan Ahmed (PCP) and Fadlalla Burma Nasir (Umma Party)

SPLA sends military reinforcement to Jonglei to disarm Murle

Al-Intibaha reports SPLA has rushed troops to Khor Fulus and South Malakal to proceed to Gonglei to disarm the Murle. The paper has learned the military reinforcements were sent from the Blue Nile State and the Nuba Mountains.

Jonglei state starts intertribal reconciliation talks

Sudan Tribune website 10/5/09 – The long awaited peace and reconciliation conference for Uror, Duk, Nyirol, Ayod and Twic East Counties kicked-off today Sunday in Jonglei capital Bor with calls of permanent agreement.

Jonglei Governor Kuol Manyang Juuk called on local leaders to reach an agreement that would challenge "enemies of peace."

The five counties represent two major tribes in Jonglei State – Nuer and Dinka Bor and though, reconciling them would mean a significant breakthrough in solving the tribal conflicts.

The peace conference, proposed by Jonglei State in collaboration with Pact Sudan, is facilitated by Reconcile International. Communities' chiefs, Commissioners of the various Counties, Parliamentarians from Jonglei State, South Sudan and National levels as well as UN agencies are attending the 5-day talks at Dr. John Garang de Mabior Institute of Science and Technology.

The chairman, peace organizing committee Mr. John Jock Chol who is also the State advisor for peace and development challenges the Counties' delegates to make history for the time to love one-another has come.

"The best time to love is now....because you don't know how long you will have the opportunity," Chol said.

"A peaceful world is the greatest heritage that this generation can give to the generation to come," he said adding "to make this precious inheritance a reality, men and women of good-will must work together to make Jonglei a better state."

With six difference tribes of Nuer, Dinka, Murle, Anyuak, Kachipo and Jie inhabiting Jonglei, the State has suffered severely from cattle raiding, child abduction and competition over grazing lands in the last four years of peace but worsens in 2009.

Duk County and Lou Nuer Counties of Uror and Nyirol in particular have unstable bounds especially after the latest attack on a business car near Poktap in Duk County on January 11, 2009 where more than five people were killed.

Sudan-Chad normalization depends on halt of support to JEM

Al-Ayyam reports while Chad has threatened to sever its diplomatic relations with Sudan, the Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail said normalization of relations between the two countries depend on halting support to Darfur movements especially JEM.

Sudan Tribune website 10/5/09 reported Chad's rebels said they moved inside the eastern part of their country because Sudan told them to evacuate their bases in the troubled region of Darfur and to leave the country.

"Based on the Doha agreement signed with the Chadian government, the Sudanese government asked us to leave our bases in Sudanese territory," Acheikh Ibni Oumar, the Union of Resistance Forces (UFR) representative in Europe told **Sudan Tribune**.

The rebel representative further said all they had done was move inside Chad to draw the attention of the international community to the existing political crisis in the country and the need to pressure President Idriss Deby to implement democratic reforms. "We didn't attack the Chadian army but we were attacked" he further underscored.

Ibni Oumar, who admitted they were supported by the Sudanese government, said they initially arrived into Darfur on the request of the Chadian government and in accordance with the Sirte agreement between the Chadian government and the opposition forces.

According to the Sirte agreement of 25 October 2007, brokered by Libya and Sudan, Khartoum had to host the Chadian rebels ahead of integrating them into Chad's national army. However, a

tripartite committee from Sudan, Libya and Chad has never met to monitor the implementation of this issue.

The rebel official said the aim of their military move last Tuesday was to force the Chadian government to reengage in talks with them in order to negotiate a political solution with them – though other rebel figures acknowledge that the objective of the offensive is to capture the capital N'djamena. He added that there is a political crisis and Chad's international partners have to put pressure on President Deby to negotiate with them.

He further said they have contacts with the French government who admit the need for political reform in Chad. "But Paris has failed to persuade him (Deby) to undertake a democratic reform, and this means the failure of the French policy in Chad" he added.

The UFR official also acknowledged that they were defeated by the government army but he said they destroyed a small column, asserting that the major part of their force remains intact.

Meanwhile, Sudan's Defence Minister Abdel-Rahim Ahmed Hussein said yesterday that they expect an attack by JEM on Al-Fasher, saying SAF are ready to deal with any aggression on the country.

The minister pointed to the movements by JEM fighters at the north-western borders of the country's saying they have the support of the Government of Chad.

The minister made a short visit yesterday to the capital of North Darfur state to inspect the security situation and review military plans to secure the three capitals of the region, particularly Al-Fasher. He also visited Nyala the capital of South Darfur state where he inaugurated some new buildings for the Sudanese army there.

Reports from Khartoum say the security services have expected since a month a major attack on one of the capitals of the three states in Darfur region. JEM rebels also threatened to attack the region.

Reliable sources from El Fasher said the visit of the defense minister to the region was also motivated by the tension between the Sudanese army and a local militia called Border Intelligence Division.

Two members of the militia were killed by the Sudanese army after refusing to be disarmed on Friday. On Saturday they attacked the SAF and killed two soldiers to revenge the deaths Friday.

Companies urged to permit non-Muslims to perform their rituals

The Commission for the Rights of Non-Muslims in Khartoum has urged private companies to respect the rights of non-Muslims and stressed the need to allow them to perform their religious rituals on Sundays, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* reports. Similarly, the Commission emphasized the need to respect Muslims' rituals.

Yemen's training aircraft crashed in Port Sudan, crew dead

Local dailies report a Yemeni training aircraft crashed northwest of Port Sudan, killing two crew on board. According to *Al-Sahafa*, the aircraft, which belongs to Yemen's Flight Academy, was en route from Egypt to Yemen.

120 Sudanese youths join Israeli army

Al-Sahafa, quoting Egypt's "Al-Masriyoon newspaper" of yesterday, reports that over 44 Algerians, 50 Egyptians and 120 Sudanese youths have joined the Israeli army since 2001. According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, Commissioner for Refugees Mohamed Al-Aghbash has neither denied nor confirmed the report of Sudanese nationals in the Israeli army. However, he said, the Commission would seek to bring Sudanese back home.

USG John Holmes interview

Akhir Lahza – 11/05/09

On repercussions of the ICC arrest warrant for President Bashir: the decision concerns only the ICC. UN does not deal with the ICC and this must be made clear. The government must deal with The Hague. We endeavor to sustain in Sudan what is considered the largest UN humanitarian operation. The ICC decision will affect the humanitarian situation in Darfur and we are trying to chart a road map to improve the humanitarian situation”

On whether he contacted the Sudan government following the ICC decision: We did contact the government. I will contact the AU Chairperson and the AUPSC Commissioner to discuss the issue of the ICC. We are also in contact with the US government but most of my focus is on the implementation of the peace processes in Sudan”

On what USG Holmes would do upon return to New York: This is my fourth visit to Darfur and my third to southern Sudan. Back in New York, I will report to UNSG Ban Ki-moon on the outcome of the visit. We have two peacekeeping missions here and Sudan tops our list of priorities in terms of concerns for peace.

*Comparing between the situation in Akobo and El-Fashir:*The situation in southern Sudan is more difficult with the tribal conflicts between the Nuer and Murle leading to the displacement of tens of thousands of IDPs and the death of 700 others. The UN has pledged to provide approximately \$5 million in aid to improve the situation.

The situation in Akobo is exceptional and people there require only humanitarian assistance while political solutions are required for Darfur.

On talks with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs: We highlighted the need for cooperation and Khartoum has promised to cooperate with all UN agencies and to provide all forms of assistance especially in terms of speeding up procedures.

Asked about his view of the government's move to "Sudanize" aid work": We welcome the decision and we will offer the relevant assistance. UN agencies will adhere to the principles of transparency and impartiality in humanitarian operations in Sudan.