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(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

➤ **United Nations**

- United Nations, NGOs do not hold IDPs for fear government will relocate them again
- WHO calls for ceasefire to enable vaccination
- Egypt says SRSG Pronk was expelled for his many mistakes

➤ **United Nations and the Transition Debate**

- Darfur Solidarity protests before 10 Downing Street

➤ **CPA**

- DDR: Akobo to be rearmed after disarmament

➤ **GoNU**

- Authorities renew ban on press reports of the assassination of the AlWifaq editor
- Vice President Salva Kiir to meet representatives of Abuja holdout groups in London
- SLM-Minnawi accuses the GoNU of attempting to weaken institutions for the implementations of the DPA
- Bush renews US economic sanctions on Sudan
- Parliament concerned over the situation in Darfur
- SPLM threatens to push for a bill on Abyei

➤ **GoSS/ Southern Sudan**

- Uganda, Lord's Resistance Army update
- Civil society holds Sudan oil conference in Juba to enhance peace
- Incidents of insecurity in southern Sudan

➤ **Darfur**

- Armed group allegedly aligned to the JEM sets fire to Koranic school in Muhajiria
- SLM group attacks Nyala central court
- Central African President accuses Sudan over raid
- Chad must stop support for Darfur rebels- Sudanese official

➤ **Eastern Sudan**

- Eritrea, Sudan review Eastern Sudan peace implementation

HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

United Nations, NGOs do not held IDPs for fear government will relocate them again

Juba Post – **Khartoum:** Humanitarian organisations in Khartoum have stopped giving aid to schools in the Soba Aradi IDP community saying that the government has informed them that the community will be relocated shortly, according to Soba Aradi school head-teachers.

The director of the Kimu Basic School in Soba Aradi told the paper Tuesday that a humanitarian organisation has cut food aid to the pupils in July because it had been informed by the government that the school, along with the rest of the community, would soon be relocated again. Since then, the people of Soba Aradi have not received any humanitarian assistance.

James Maring, a coordinator for the Soba Aradi community-based organisation Facilitator for Family Education and Development Activities (FFEDA) also said his organisation had approached UNMIS' Civil Affairs for assistance to improve educational facilities but UNMIS demanded to see documents that they were not able to produce.

He was told that UNMIS only assists IDPs living in government-approved settlements.

An UNMIS Civil Affairs Officer has denied this and explained that UNMIS is afraid that the government will once again try to relocate the residents and the organisation does not want to waste resources on communities which may soon be dismantled.

WHO calls for ceasefire to enable vaccination

AlRai AlAam: WHO and the UNICEF have called for a ceasefire in Darfur to enable the national polio eradication campaign proceed well.

WHO representative, Dr. Salah el-Haithami, said that they have presented formal requests to the government and the armed groups to cease all military activity during the period of the vaccination campaign that kicks off next Sunday.

He said he expects Sudan to be declared free of polio by the year 2008.

Egypt says SRSG Pronk was expelled for his many mistakes

AlIntibaha: Egypt's foreign minister told reporters in Cairo that Egypt will participate in the forthcoming meeting of the African Union Peace & Security Council in Addis next month. He said that the meeting will focus on the situation in Darfur.

Of the Sudan government decision to expel SRSG Pronk, the Egyptian minister said that his belief is that Mr. Pronk was expelled for the many mistakes he did that angered the Sudan government as well as the major powers which he thought would have backed him.

The minister further said that a United Nations force could not be sent to Darfur without the consent of the host government.

United Nations and the Transition Debate

Darfur Solidarity protests before 10 Downing Street

Darfur Solidarity in the UK and Ireland staged a demonstration yesterday before 10 Downing Street in London carrying banners protesting UNSCR 1706.

The protestors handed a letter of protest to the UK prime minister in which they also called for more support for the African Union instead of a transition to the United Nations.

CPA

DDR: Akobo to be rearmed after disarmament

Juba Post – Malakal: The Acting Commissioner of Akobo plans to release weapons collected in a previous disarmament campaign in Upper Nile State.

The Acting Commissioner says that the problem is that the disarmed communities are then exposed to other communities who take advantage of the situation. He said that the disarmed have to be re-armed in order to protect themselves. This re-armament, he says, will be carried out unless the Murle tribesmen are also disarmed by 5th November.

GoNU

Authorities renew ban on press reports of the assassination of the AlWifaq editor

AlSudani: The States Security high prosecutor, Jamal Suleiman has reiterated a ban on the press against reporting over the murder of the AlWifaq editor in Chief Mohamed Taha Mohamed Ahmed.

He considered the recent announcement by the Minister of Interior over the case as sufficient information to give the public a general idea.

Vice President Salva Kiir to meet representatives of Abuja holdout groups in London

AlRai AlAam: Sudanese First vice-president will start a one-week visit to the United Kingdom where he is expected to hold talks about peace implementation and Darfur crisis.

The First Vice President and President of Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, is due to leave Sunday for London on a several-day visit to Britain. Kiir would meet in London with the Prime Minister Tony Blair, Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett and International Development Secretary Hilary Benn.

Kiir is expected to discuss implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed between the SPLM and the Sudanese government in January 2005. The question of the pledged international aid to southern Sudan construction will be debated with British official.

SLM-Minnawi accuses the GoNU of attempting to weaken institutions for the implementations of the DPA

AlIntibaha: A prominent leader in the SLM-Minnawi accused the National Congress Party and the Government of attempting to weaken institutions for the DPA implementations

“The committees formed by the government for the DPA implementation are merely a useless “media propaganda toll,” Head of the SLM negotiators, Abdul Jabar Dosa said.

Bush renews US economic sanctions on Sudan

AFP: US President George W. Bush renewed US economic sanctions on Sudan for one year and left open the door to imposing new ones linked to the violence in Darfur, the White House said.

"I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and to maintain sanctions against Sudan," Bush said in a letter to the US Congress released by the White House citing actions and policies that "are hostile to US interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States."

In addition, "the United States has designated individuals at the United Nations under targeted sanctions, in the form of an assets freeze and travel ban," said White House national security spokesman Gordon Johndroe. (*AFP*)

Parliament concerned over the situation in Darfur

Rai AlShaab: Darfur featured prominently in yesterday's session of the National Assembly with a number of MPs expressing concern over the deteriorating situation.

MPs have warned of a possible outbreak of a tribal conflict in the region following the recent incident in Muhajiriya. Also much highlighted was the plight of the over 10,000 IDPs in the different camps in Darfur and some MPs point out that this, together with the mushrooming of tribal militia groups with no clear agenda, will give an excuse for a foreign intervention.

MPs have called upon the government to protect the civilian population, listen to the voice of reason and desist from honeyed political rhetoric.

MP AbdelHameed Musa Kasha (NCP) was especially critical and pointed out that any talk that Darfur enjoys security is not true. He called for commitment to the implementation of the agreements on Darfur and said that implementation should not wait until the holdout groups are brought on board.

** Also noticed in the press are a good number of commentaries and opinion pieces that describe the situation in Darfur as bad and some wondering what exactly is happening in Darfur.*

SPLM threatens to push for a bill on Abyei

The partners to the CPA are again at each others throats over Abyei with the National Congress Party threatening to use its simple majority in parliament to block a bill the SPLM intends to push before parliament calling for a resolution of the Abyei issue.

Quoting the head of the NCP caucus at the National Assembly, *AlSahafa* reports that el-Deirderi Mohamed Ahmed has advised the SPLM to instead seek arbitration from the Constitutional Court. He however urged the SPLM to wait for the outcome of an impending visit of the political offices of the Partners to the CPA before taking a step on the issue. He said however that should the issue be referred to the Constitutional Court, the SPLM will find the National Congress Party ready to defend the position of the Presidency of the Republic over the issue of Abyei.

Meanwhile an MP on an SPLM ticket described as “strange” these threats by the National Congress Party.

- ❖ Sudan’s Bashir arrives for China –Africa summit (*most dailies*)
- ❖ US forces stop Sudanese vessel 35 miles off the Red Sea coast; Sudan condemns the act and dubs it an act of piracy (*AlRai AlAam*)
- ❖ Authorities drop charges against alleged participants of the sabotage attempt of early last year(*AlRai AlAam*).
- ❖ Yesterday, fire department put down a fire near the US Embassy in Khartoum. The fire flamed in a small store containing electrical machines and equipments. (*AlRai AlAam*)

GoSS/ Southern Sudan

Uganda, LRA update

Reuters via Juba Post: The Lord's Resistance Army and the Uganda government have signed a new truce in an effort to revive stalled talks.

The new truce addresses rebel demands by creating buffer zones around the assembly points. The rebels now have a month to gather at the two assembly points in southern Sudan.

Civil society holds Sudan oil conference in Juba to enhance peace

(*SudanTribune.com* – 1st Nov. **Juba**) A two-day conference started Wednesday in the capital of southern Sudan, to explore ways of an oil policy that can help government to use petrodollar revenue as an instrument to consolidate peace and bring prosperity.

The opening session of the “Oil and the Future of Sudan” Conference was attended by some guest speakers including Riek Machar, Vice-President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Paul Mayom Akec, the GoSS minister of interior and Gen. (Rtd.) Lazaro Sumbeiywo, the chief mediator of the Intergovernmental Agency on Development (IGAD) peace process that culminated in the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Machar welcomed the conference and said that the outcome of the conference will be highly considered by the government

Incidents of insecurity in southern Sudan

Mine explodes on Kaya road: Yei: A mine exploded along the Kaya road outside Yei town last week injuring an 18 year old lady.

A United Nations mine clearance team was called in to clear the area.

Tensions force Wau police to relocate: Wau: Police in Wau have relocated their personnel after increasing conflicts with SPLA soldiers.

Some 3 police posts were closed and their personnel relocated after SPLA soldiers threatened to beat up the local police accusing them for the death of an SPLA member.

United Nations Police, UNMOs and National Monitors were requested by the local police to help resolve the problem.

Tensions rise between Melut religious communities: **Malakal:** Muslim and Christian communities in Melut are on the collision course over a land dispute.

Representatives from the Sudan Interior Church (SIC) in Melut sent a letter to the Melut County Commissioner regarding the SAF army barracks that was established in the SIC compound.

The letter gives the commissioner 14 days to resolve the problem. The SIC is also planning protests targeting mosques in Melut if the issue is not resolved.

Man gunned down in Juba town: **Juba:** Colonel Taban Nyiboyi was shot dead while sitting on a veranda in near the Ivory Bank in Juba market last Tuesday.

The two assailants reportedly came on motorbike, shot him dead with the AK-47s they had, and took off.

The victim and the assailants are said to be members of a former SAF-backed Murle militia group under the command of Mjr Gen. Ismail Kony and are new recruits to the SPLA.

The motives behind the attack are not yet clear and investigations are ongoing. But the murdered soldier was working as part of a financial committee in charge of the re-integration of the former Murle militias into the SPLA. The two assailants, both with the rank of captain, are suspected of being cut from the SPLA pay list.

The shooting created panic across the town with rumours circulating that the Lord's Resistance Army had invaded and others that Murle and Nuer soldiers were fighting in the middle of the town.

- ❖ SPLM held its first in a series of political rallies across the 8 counties of Lakes State in Aliab County. The local SPLM Secretary-General said that the rallies are more than promotion drives for the party but also aim to introduce newly appointed SPLM country secretaries to their respective counties and an awareness campaign to explain the CPA and prepare for the coming national census. (*Sourced from the Juba Post*).
- ❖ Understanding that the oil reserves in Unity State will one day run out, Governor Taban Deng told a press conference that 2% of revenue allotted for the state will primarily be used for promoting agricultural production. (*Sourced from the Juba Post*).
- ❖ Major cuts especially targeting unclassified staff is expected in the civil service in W. Equatoria State, says the Deputy Governor. This is said to be part of a screening process initiated by the GoSS that will allow each state to have not more than 5,000 civil servants in their pay roll. W. Equatoria expects to cut between 50 – 75% of non-classified jobs (*Sourced from the Juba Post*).

Darfur

Armed group allegedly aligned to the JEM sets fire to Koranic school in Muhajiria

AlIntibaha: An armed group allegedly aligned to the Justice and Equality Movement set fires to Koranic schools in a village near to Muhajiria.

Ten armed men came in two vehicles and attacked the students' residents, the school sheikh said. He added that 100 students fled away from the attack and are still missing.

SLM group attacks Nyala central court

AlSudani; In an attempt to free a jailed comrade, a group aligned to the SLM-Minnawi attacked yesterday the Nyala Central Court and clashed with the police. The security authorities managed to control the clashes and arrested the five attackers. There was no injuries.

Central African President accuses Sudan over raid

Reuters/Xinhua: Central African Republic President Francois Bozize on Wednesday accused Sudan of sending armed rebels across the border to occupy a northeastern town in his country.

"In the last 48 hours, the Central African Republic has been attacked by the same country which has harmed Chad. Let's be clear: It is (Sudanese President Omar Hassan) al-Bashir and he must stop behaving like this," Bozize told reporters in Chad after overnight talks with President Idriss Deby.

The government said the attackers had advanced from Am Dafok on the Sudanese border.

Central African Republic had initially protested to Khartoum about the attack, demanding an explanation, and it also appealed to the international community for help.. (*Reuters*)

Meanwhile, the Sudanese government on Wednesday rejected the accusation that it had permitted militants of Central African Republic (CAR) rebels to launch attacks from the Sudanese soil.

The statement reiterated Sudan's full support to the CAR against its rebel group's offensive.

Highlighting the good bilateral relations, the statement said Sudan was keen to help the CAR government to achieve peace and security in its country.

Chad must stop support for Darfur rebels- Sudanese official

Xinhua: Sudan on Wednesday asked Chad to stop support for rebel forces of the National Redemption Front (NRF) in the western Sudanese region of Darfur.

"We ask Chad to stop its support for the NRF, which carries out terrorist operations in Darfur and threatens the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA)," Sudanese Presidential Adviser Majzoub al-Khalifa told reporters.

Al-Khalifa denied Chadian accusation that Khartoum provides assistances for Chadian rebels, saying that "the Sudanese territories are not used for launching offensives against neighbouring Chad."

He reiterated the Sudanese government's support for stability and security in Chad and its keenness to implement the Tripoli Agreement signed by the Sudanese and Chadian governments during a mini African summit in the Libyan capital in February, which stipulates deployment of Sudanese-Chadian joint forces on the borders to prevent any security incidents.

- ❖ Sudan National Security and Intelligence chief travels to Asmara to meet Abuja non-signatory (*AlSahafa*).
- ❖ EL-Geneina gears up to receive Minnawi in first tour of the states of Darfur (*SudanTribune.com*)

Eastern Sudan

Eritrea, Sudan review Eastern Sudan peace implementation

(SudanTribune.com) A visiting Eritrean delegation held talks today here on the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA) implementations as well as on the bilateral relations.

An Eritrean delegation arrived in the country this afternoon. It included the head of political affairs at the [ruling] People's Front for Democracy and Justice [PFDJ], Mr. Yemane Gebreab, the Eritrean president's political advisor, Eritrean mediator for the eastern talks as well as the chairperson for organizational affairs at the PFDJ, Mr. Abdallah Jabber.

Presidential Assistant, Nafie Ali Nafie, on Wednesday reviewed with the visiting head of political affairs at the Eritrean ruling People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) Yemane Gebreab who is Eritrean president's political advisor and Eritrean mediator for the eastern talks, the process of the bilateral relations between the Sudan and Eritrea and means of boosting joint cooperation in the various domains.

Nafie has pointed out that the meeting reviewed the measures that were taken to prepare ground for the implementation of the ESPA that was signed under the Eritrean sponsorship.

He said the two sides also reviewed bilateral relations at the political and official levels.