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UNMIS
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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights:

UN/ Agencies

Clashes continue in Malakal, curfew is imposed

(*AlAdhwaa; AlAyaam et al*) Clashes continue in Malakal between SPLM forces and an armed militia force led under the command of a Mjr. Gen. Gabriel Tangying.

Casualty figures have risen and the governor, in press statements, said that the clashes were sparked by the appointment by the GoSS of a commissioner for Fanjak where the militia is based.

AllIntibaha reports that the SPLA has surrounded the JIU base in Malakal where Gabriel Tangying is said to be and has also raided the local market killing some civilians in the process.

The paper further says that the UN had to deploy heavily armed forces and managed to bring the situation under control.

The governor has imposed a curfew around the area and a flight ban that also covers UN flights.

Families of northern tradesmen and military personnel were evacuated by a specially permitted Sudan Airways flight from Malakal.

UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri said that the UN forces had to deploy to the area in order to guarantee the safety of the civilians and UN personnel and premises and pointed out that the deployment did have a positive effect on the citizens "although it was not part of our mandate", reports *AlAdhwaa*.

She pointed out that the CJMC in Malakal met to discuss the situation yesterday and will report to a meeting of the CJMC in Juba today.

The CJMC has, on its part, blamed both the SPLA and the SAF for the incident.

UN rights council rejects tougher line on Darfur

(*Reuters* – 28th Nov. **Geneva**) The United Nations' top human rights body on Tuesday backed an African-sponsored call for an end to violations in Darfur but without criticising Khartoum, angering European Union diplomats.

The African resolution, the first on Darfur the Geneva-based rights body has debated since coming into being in June, noted "with concern the seriousness of the human rights and humanitarian situation in Darfur."

But African states, backed by Muslim and Arab countries, refused to accept additional wording that would have called on U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour to draw up a new report on the situation there.

European members of the 47-state Human Rights Council, backed by Canada, had sought amendments to highlight what they said was the special responsibility of the Sudan government to rein in rights violations and bring those involved to justice.

But the Council rejected the EU move by 22 votes to 20, with 4 abstentions, and the African proposal was then approved by a wider 25-11 margin, with 10 abstentions.

The EU also tried to draw attention to violations such as the use of child soldiers, and said it was up to the government to end a "climate of impunity."

United Nations and the Transition Debate

Annan says waiting Sudan's response on UN-AU force

(*UN News* – 28th Nov. UN) Secretary-General Kofi Annan said today that the Sudanese Government has promised to respond formally by tomorrow morning about the details for a planned hybrid United Nations-African Union (AU) force to assume peacekeeping duties in the war-torn region of Darfur.

Speaking to reporters at UN Headquarters in New York, Annan said Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir made the pledge during a telephone call today, one day before an AU summit in Abuja is slated to discuss the proposed joint operation.

Asked about media reports that Bashir has said he remains opposed to any kind of UN force in Darfur, Annan said he would "much rather wait" for the formal response.

Annan said that the Sudanese Government announced after the Addis Ababa meeting that it needed to discuss several issues – specifically the size and strength of the force, and the appointment of several key posts – before coming back to the other parties with a response.

Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Marie Guéhenno will attend the AU summit in Abuja tomorrow, along with Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, the officer-in-charge of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

Zerihoun held talks yesterday with Salim Ahmed Salim, the Special Envoy of AU Commission Chairperson Alpha Omar Konaré, to discuss how to re-energize the political process in Darfur, a remote and impoverished region in western Sudan that is roughly the size of France.

Bashir says incentives to the Sudan government to accept an international force is a disgrace to sovereignty

(*AllIntibaha*) Addressing celebrations to mark the 15th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day in Dongola yesterday, President Bashir assured that Sudan's rejection to UNSCR 1706 does not put it on a collision course with the international community. He says incentives offered to the Sudan government to convince it accept a deployment of international forces in Darfur is a disgrace to the country's sovereignty.

The President further pointed out that UN forces seek to come to Sudan [*Darfur?*] not to keep peace and security as they proclaim but to disintegrate the country. He cites "the atrocities committed by international forces in Iraq and the sedition they sow between Shi'ites and Sunnis" as an example of what such an intervention can do.

World must not neglect AU force in Darfur - official

(Reuters – 28th Nov. **Khrt.**) International efforts to secure the deployment of U.N. troops to Sudan's Darfur region have left the current African Union force floundering with a lack of equipment and funds, a senior AU official said on Tuesday.

"You cannot involve the United Nations unless you also have the consent of the host country," Salim Ahmed Salim, the AU special envoy to Darfur, said.

"Since that has not yet been obtained you do the second best thing ... which is to make use of the force on the ground, equip it effectively, so that it can try to live up to the expectations of the Darfuris," he told Reuters in an interview.

Salim is hoping to revive the peace process which has all but stalled as a new rebel alliance opposed to the deal has renewed hostilities in Darfur, prompting the government to rearm tribal militias.

Salim said more trust was needed between the two parties who signed the deal, to signal to those still fighting that they should join the process and has also urged the government to disarm the militias calling it of "critical importance" to the peace process.

Of the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement, Mr. Salim said that implementation is very much behind time and that the two partners alone are not enough to bring about peace.

He said he hoped an AU Peace and Security Council meeting in Nigeria on Wednesday would extend the mandate of the AU force beyond the end of the year to avoid "calamity" in Darfur.

"In no circumstances can Africa be seen to abandon Darfur. Darfur is us," he said.

CPA

Vice-President Kiir says SAF to complete redeployment from southern Sudan by July

(*AlSahafa*) Vice-President Salva Kiir says a deployment of UN troops without the consent of President Bashir will turn the Sudan into "another Iraq" and will not bring peace to Darfur or any other part of the country.

In press statements, the VP further pointed out that peace will not progress in southern Sudan without peace in Darfur. He says donor assistance for development for the south has been affected because donors will only meet their pledges if the violence in Darfur is brought to an end.

Kiir also explained that in his discussions with President Mubarak in Cairo, he had proposed to the Egyptian leader that he lead an initiative to suggest to the Security Council a draft resolution on peacekeepers in Darfur that may be accepted by President Bashir.

On the implementation of the CPA, the Vice-President pointed out that the security arrangements are being implemented as planned. He said that all the SAF will have been redeployed from southern Sudan by July next year and vowed that the SPLA will also complete its withdrawal from the Nuba Mountains and the Blue Nile areas but said that the north-south boundaries will first have to be demarcated.

SPLM criticises calls by Jebel Auliya commissioner for return of IDPs to southern Sudan

(*AlAdhwaa*) The SPLM has accused “militias of the National Congress Party” of trying to bring its name to disrepute by using pro-government militias to clash with the police and framing the SPLA. He said that the SPLA only has in Khartoum its contingents in the JIU as per the provisions of the CPA.

Speaking at the regular SPLM press conference yesterday, SPLM Secretary-General for Khartoum said that the SPLM will launch a campaign to curb insecurity through briefings in the various localities in Khartoum. He called the different political parties to participate in these campaigns.

Paul Reng also said that the police in Khartoum should be stripped off their heavy weapons.

Commenting on a recent statement attributed to the commissioner for Jebel Auliya calling for the repatriation of southerners back south, the SPLM figure described these statements as “irresponsible” and pointed out that such statements will adversely affect peaceful coexistence and may lead to ethnic conflicts.

SPLM caucus boycotts session of Sennar Legislative Assembly

(*Rai AlShaab et al*) SPLM legislators in Blue Nile State walked out yesterday of a session of the regional law-making body and announced it is dissociating itself from the partnership with the National Congress Party.

An SPLM parliamentarian said that the parliamentarian walked out in protest over the deteriorating health situation in the country and the spread of cholera and other epidemics and the relieving from duty of the regional health minister [*SPLM ticket*]. He also said that the regional government is bent on targeting SPLM appointees who have face harassments and unjustified commissions of inquiry. Also among the reasons, he adds, is that the SPLM has been questioning where funds brought in by the health ministry to compensate flood victims have gone.

The parliamentarian demanded that the dismissed health minister be reinstated.

GoNU

Sudanese parties criticise Bashir denial of Darfur crisis

(*Reuters, the local press* – 29th Nov. **Khrt**) Sudanese political parties criticised President Omar Hassan al-Bashir on Tuesday, saying that in a news conference broadcast live to nine countries he showed signs of denial and lack of respect for Sudanese lives.

"The people outside will think that the president is lying and he does not respect the international community. This is an attitude of denial which will not solve the problem," said Bashir Adam Rahama of the Popular Congress Party.

"When he denies the sun in the middle of the day that means either he is not serious or he thinks people are fools," added Rahama, who is political secretary of the opposition party.

Rahama said Bashir wanted to have his comments heard ahead of the African Union's Peace and Security Council meeting in Nigeria on Wednesday, which is likely to decide whether to

extend the mandate of the struggling AU peace monitoring force in Darfur to beyond the end of the year.

Mariam al-Mahdi, spokeswoman for the opposition Umma Party, said Bashir has shown a lack of respect for the lives of Sudanese people, adding that a few months ago he had said 10,000 people have been killed in the troubled region of western Sudan, more than the 9,000 he mentioned on Monday night.

"How can our last resort — the president — belittle the deaths of Sudanese people?" she said.

"Ultimately foreigners are more kind to our people than our president," said Mahdi.

Al-Tayyib Khamis, spokesman for the former Darfur rebel group the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM- Minnawi) said Bashir had underestimated the number of dead by at least five times.

"There are no people in the world suffering as much as the people of Darfur," he said. "Without the humanitarian agencies the people of Darfur would be dead."

"We ask the president: 'Where is the security in Darfur?' There's no stability ... there's still rape, the Janjaweed are still burning villages," Khamis said.

"Minni (Minnawi) is right — the Janjaweed are part of the government and they work with the government," said Khamis.

National Congress Party, SPLM parliamentarians clash over proposed Civil Service Law

(The Citizen) The proposed Civil Service Law provoked a bitter argument that forces a vote on its approval instead of the usual consensus.

The voting that was split on National Congress Party, SPLM lines saw an overwhelming majority of 177 Mps vote in favour against 77.

The main bone of contention on the bill is an Article 50 provision that allows the state to dismiss civil servants in "public interests". The National Congress Party advocates that this article remain while the SPLM has called for repeal.

El-Mirghani and Khalil Ibrahim ink joint declaration on Darfur

(AlAyaam et al) The JEM and the DUP signed in Cairo yesterday a joint declaration subscribing to a negotiated settlement to the problem of Darfur.

JEM leader Dr. Khalil Ibrahim who wound up a visit to Cairo yesterday also said that officials in Cairo have expressed understanding to the JEM point of view over Darfur.

GoSS/ Southern Sudan

Justice ministry says Bahr-el-Jebel and Lakes states have violated Constitution

(AlAyaam) The Minister of Justice says Bahr-el-Jebel and Lakes states have violated the National Interim Constitution by ratifying their regional constitutions.

The ministry has warned authorities concerned in the two states to review the situation and abide by the National Interim Constitution that states should present their regional constitutions to the Federal Ministry of Justice for ratification.

Darfur

AU envoy calls on Sudan, Chad to 'work together'

(AFP- 28th Nov. **Khrt.**) African Union envoy to Sudan Salim Ahmed Salim on Tuesday called on Khartoum and N'Djamena to cooperate to end the rebellions in their border areas.

"There's a need for (Sudan and Chad) to work together to put an end to those conflicts," Salim said.

The AU envoy was in Khartoum to hold talks with officials over the conflict in the western Sudanese region of Darfur which has spilled over into Chad and the Central African Republic.

Chadian President Idriss Deby and CAR President Francois Bozize accuse Sudan of supporting the rebel movements fighting against them. Khartoum categorically denies the charges.

Leaders from all three countries discussed the spreading violence during a mini-summit in Libya Tuesday.

"Durable peace in Chad is in the interest of Sudan and durable peace in Sudan is in the interest of Chad," said Salim.

"You can choose your friends, not your brother and neighbours are brothers in spite of you," he said, stressing that "Darfur is a source of instability" for Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic.

Salim said he raised the issue of Chad during a meeting with Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir Monday, and stressed that he would discuss Sudan whenever he next visits N'Djamena.

Chad says in state of war with Sudan

(AP – 28th Nov. **N'Djamena**) A Chadian government spokesman said Tuesday his nation was in "a state of war" with Sudan after a Chadian rebel group said it shot down a government plane.

The government spokesman, Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor, said the Chadian military reconnaissance plane was shot down in eastern Chad on Tuesday, and a rebel group claimed responsibility. Doumgor blamed neighbouring Sudan for backing the rebels.

The plane was downed in Chad's volatile east, close to the Sudanese border, Doumgor said at a news conference. He did not provide other details.

"Today we are in a state of war with forces from Sudan," he said. "We consider ourselves under attack by Sudan."

An opposition Web site quoted rebel spokesman Ali Izzo as saying rebels had shot down a plane and a helicopter using surface-to-air missiles. The account could not immediately be confirmed.

Doumgor told journalists that in response to Tuesday's downing of a plane that "the state of emergency will be reinforced and the military put on the highest alert."

He said the United Nations and African Union should do all that is possible to evacuate Sudanese refugees who are in camps near the border, which he called havens for "the forces of aggression."

Doumgor claimed some refugees were working for the Sudanese government, trying to destabilize Chad. He also repeated allegations made a day earlier that Saudi Arabia finances and supplies the rebels to establish a militant form of Islam in Chad.

Eastern Sudan

Eastern Front expects implementation of the security protocol to start next week

(*AlSudani*) The Eastern Front asserted the selection of the chairman of the Eastern Front, Musa Mohamed Salih as the assistant to the president el-Basher.

The chairman of the Eastern Congress in el-Gadharef state says he expects implementation of the security protocol to start next week and this, he adds, will pave the way to the return of the leadership of the Eastern Front to the Khartoum.

Other Developments

El-Fateh Army walks out on el-Mirghani

(*AlRai AlAam*) In a rare "change of goalposts", the military wing of the DUP has walked out on DUP leader Mohamed Osman el-Mirghani while an earlier splinter group has re-joined the DUP.

The El-Fateh Army under the command of Awadh-el-Bari el-Sirr has formed a new movement, the Patriotic Movement, while the one-time splinter group says it decided to re-join the party based on its concerns over the situation the country is passing through.

Editorials/ Commentaries

Denying the sun in broad daylight

(*Editorial, The Citizen*) The editorial highlights the beginning of coverage on the Darfur crisis in the 2003 when BBC Arabic service shed light to the crisis in Darfur when it hosted an Egyptian man who said, commenting on Darfur, that those who want to deny that something is happening on that part of Sudan could do so but should also ask themselves why the Darfuris spreading along the mountains are doing there. This, the paper, said, spurred then foreign minister Dr. Mustafa Osman to visit Darfur – a visit that resulted in his confirming that there is a problem in Darfur that needs to be solved.

It goes on to say that President Bashir in his recent press conference denied that it was a major problem and instead accused the western media of what he described as exaggerating the real situation in Darfur.

The paper advises that the wise and acceptable way to approach any problem is to first of all admit that the problem exists and only then can a vision be developed to solving it.

