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UNMIS
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(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

➤ **United Nations**

- WFP appeals for 350 million dollars for food to Sudan
- Francis Deng meets government over Darfur

➤ **United Nations and the Transition Debate**

- SRSG Pronk holds talks with foreign minister Akol
- EU looks for common ground with Sudan on Darfur
- Arab League chief to visit Sudan over Darfur crisis
- UN experts seek sanctions against top Sudanese officials
- Campaigns against a United Nations deployment for Darfur

➤ **CPA**

- 10,000 Sudanese refugees to be repatriated from Central Africa

➤ **GoNU**

- Authorities in Khartoum arrest AlRai AlAam reporter pending investigations

➤ **Southern Sudan/ GoSS**

- Ugandan rebels rejoin peace talks a day after walkout
- Four die in mystery radio explosions in south Sudan

➤ **Darfur/DPA**

- SLM Minnawi accuses Sudanese army of attacking HQ in Darfur
- Holdout group to hold general conference in territories they control
- Ethiopian primer accuses Eritrea of destabilizing Darfur
- USAID awards \$31 mln infrastructure contract for South Sudan

HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

WFP appeals for 350 million dollars for food to Sudan

(*AlHayat/ Agencies*) The WFP appealed last Friday for 350 million dollars for food for the needy populations in Sudan.

Despite the sum of 26 million euros provided recently by the EU, the WFP says it may run out of stock by early January.

Francis Deng meets government over Darfur

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 1st Oct. **Khrt.**) The government held talks on the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement with United Nations official Francis Deng yesterday.

Following a meeting with Senior Presidential Advisor Mini Minnawi, Mr. Deng told the press that the meeting covered the situation in Darfur, the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and the possibility of broadening participation in the agreement.

United Nations and the Transition Debate

SRSG Pronk holds talks with foreign minister Akol

(*Xinhua/ST* – 30th Sept. **Khrt.**) Following a meeting with SRSG Jan Pronk, foreign minister Lam Akol told the press that the government and UNMIS have agreed to rejuvenate the JIM in a bid to restore stability to Darfur. Minister Akol said that the meeting comes in the context of the regular meeting between the two sides.

Also speaking to the press following the meeting, SRSG Pronk said that the meeting was not of a political nature and that among issues discussed was relations between the government and the United Nations.

He said that the impending of the JIM will discuss the situation on the ground in Darfur, the humanitarian situation, human rights and the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

SRSG Pronk said that the foreign minister told him that the government will soon take a decision on the letter sent by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the government and the African Union on United Nations assistance to the African Union.

Pronk said that the United Nations is fully prepared to present assistance to the AMIS through consultations with the Sudan government and pointed out that the ball is firmly in the court of the Presidency of the Republic in Sudan.

AlAyaam daily also reports that the United Nations had also requested an end to air raids on Darfur. Earlier on Thursday, the UN envoy said that a UN peacekeeping mission in Darfur was unlikely to take place soon, and the international community should instead push for the existing African Union mission to be prolonged indefinitely.

The UN envoy in Sudan told the press in Khartoum on Saturday that the world body was ready to help African Union (AU) peacekeeping troops in Darfur.

He expected that the Sudanese government would soon make a response to a letter sent by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to Khartoum and the AU on the assistances which the UN could provide for the AU forces in Darfur.

But the Sudanese government said on Saturday that it would not accepted an unlimited extension of the AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur, adding that the government only agreed on what had been decided by the AU in its recent meeting in New York.

On the other hand, Professor Ibrahim Ahmed Omar, the deputy head of the National Congress Party, says that the SRSG Pronk has “started to move in the right direction” and that he gave reasonable suggestions based on an understanding of the situation.

- But despite this positive note from Professor Ibrahim, some papers, notably *Rai AlShaab*, *AlHayat* and *AlSahafa* report that the government has rejected SRSG Pronk’s suggestions and will not allow for an indefinite extension of the African Union mandate in Darfur.

These papers quote President Bashir Special Envoy to Darfur, Gen. el-Dabi, as saying that the government only accepted the extension of the African Union mandate on the basis of the agreement reached during the New York meeting of the African Union Peace & Security Council. The general said that the only way forward, according to the government is the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement. He also called on the international community to honour their pledges of support for peace in Darfur instead of talking of a third avenue.

Meanwhile, *SUNA* reports that the African Union Peace & Security Council has extended the mandate of its troops to Darfur by another 6 months.

EU looks for common ground with Sudan on Darfur

(*Reuters/ST* – 30th Sept. **Khrt.**) Top European Union officials met Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir on Saturday to try to find common ground on ways to end the military crisis in Darfur and ease one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises.

"It was very important to understand the point made by the president of Sudan. I also conveyed to him very frankly and very openly our concern about the situation," Barroso added.

Barroso did not mention the U.N. peacekeepers during his brief remarks and a Sudanese official when asked about U.N. forces deflected the question and said pressure should be placed on Darfur rebels to sign a peace agreement.

AlAyaam meanwhile reports that Italy’s foreign minister is also in town for a five-day official visit during which she will travel to Darfur and Juba and hold talks with a number of Sudanese government officials.

The two European officials held talks, separately, last evening with President Bashir, Minnawi and SRSG Pronk.

Arab League chief to visit Sudan over Darfur crisis

(*Reuters/ST* – 30th Sept. **Cairo**) The head of the Cairo-based Arab League will travel to Sudan on Monday for talks with Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir over war-ravaged Darfur, a League official said on Saturday.

The trip by Secretary-General Amr Moussa comes amid a global diplomatic standoff over Darfur, where roughly 200,000 people have died and more than 2.5 million have been displaced since 2003 in fighting between rebels, government forces and militias.

"He (Moussa) will be going to Sudan. He is leaving on Monday and coming back on Tuesday night. The purpose of the trip is to discuss issues pertaining to Darfur," Hesham Youssef, an aide to Moussa, told Reuters.

UN experts seek sanctions against top Sudanese officials

(AP – 29th Sept. UN) A team of experts has recommended that the U.N. Security Council impose sanctions on top Sudanese government officials for violations of peace efforts in the war-ravaged Darfur region, diplomats said Friday.

The list, which is secret, was sent to the Security Council with an Aug. 31 report that all sides in the Darfur conflict continue to commit "blatant violations" of an arms embargo. It said the rebels appear to have gained strength since March, while the government continues to supply weapons to Arab militias known as the Janjaweed.

Qatar's U.N. Ambassador Nassir Al-Nassir said the new list of names forwarded to the Security Council includes "top people in the government." The number of people on the list also wasn't known.

Al-Nassir questioned the use of imposing sanctions on government officials at a time when the United Nations is negotiating with it over the expansion of an African Union force trying to stem continued violence in Darfur. The Security Council has demanded that the U.N. take over peacekeeping in Darfur, but Sudan has refused.

Campaigns against a United Nations deployment for Darfur

Reuters reports from Dubai that Al Qaeda's second-in-command Ayman al-Zawahri called on Muslims in a video released on Friday to launch a holy war against proposed U.N. peacekeepers in Sudan's Darfur region.

Closer in Khartoum, *AlHayat* reports that a Muslim group led by a certain el-Sadiq Hassan has vowed that the Muslim Group that he leads will fight the "invaders, infidels, invaders and foreigners". He said that students in all Islamic schools in the country are ready to face the international forces.

On the other hand, *AlAdhwaa* reports that the Darfur Students' Association has rejected UNSCR 1706 and says it regards it as a gateway to a re-colonization of the country. The association called upon the United Nations to provide the necessary logistics and financial support to the African Union to carry out its mandated tasks in the region.

The students' body did not deny the suffering in Darfur but pointed out that national sovereignty should not be compromised.

CPA

10,000 Sudanese refugees to be repatriated from Central Africa

(*IRIN* – 29th Sept. **Bangui**) At least 10,000 Sudanese refugees in the Central African Republic are to be repatriated after an agreement between the government and the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, an agency official said.

"The repatriation of some 10,000 stranded Sudanese refugees will resume in M'Boki Camp in October," Bruno Geddo, the UNHCR representative to the CAR, said in Bangui on Thursday.

The refugees were stranded in M'Boki when an earlier repatriation effort was suspended in April with the closure of the Sudan border because of growing insecurity in eastern CAR and constant border crossings by Chadian rebels.

Geddo said the CAR government would facilitate the refugees' return home.

The CAR still hosts 14,000 Sudanese refugees in Kaga-Bandoro, Bangui and Bangassou, Zemio, Obo and Bambari. In 2005, the country recorded 34,473 arrivals from Sudan, according to UNHCR.

Geddo said food aid would also be supplied to the refugees in M'Boki Camp, with the first consignment arriving next week.

"It will help alleviate the food insecurity facing nearly 5,000 vulnerable refugees who have stopped farming since the first phase of the repatriation," he said.

The food aid is estimated to cost US \$80,000, representing one-third of the money allocated by the UNHCR Central Emergency Response Fund to help the refugees in M'Boki, he said.

The first phase of the repatriation began in February after a tripartite agreement was signed by the CAR and Sudanese governments and UNHCR. Some 2,155 Sudanese refugees were repatriated.

GoNU

Authorities in Khartoum arrest *AlRai AlAam* reporter pending investigations

(*ALAyaaam*; 1st October. **Khrt**) Security authorities in Khartoum arrested on 29th September, *AlRai AlAam* reporter, Abu-Obeida Abdulla.

The Dean of the Journalists' Union said that the information department at state security informed the Sudanese Journalists Union that the reporter was arrested for a political purpose and that investigations are taking place.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS

Ugandan rebels rejoin peace talks a day after walkout

(*AP* – 29th Sept. **Gulu**) The Lords Resistance Army said they would resume talks with the government after independent monitors began probing accusations that the Ugandan army were surrounding camps where the rebels were gathering under the truce.

Both sides have traded accusations of violations of a truce signed last month which many hope will bring an end to one of Africa's longest wars.

"The peace talks are on course and we hope that we will come out with a solution," said Martin Ojul, head of the rebel team negotiating a peace deal with the government.

The talks will resume later Friday.

Four die in mystery radio explosions in south Sudan

(Reuters – 30th Sept. Juba) Four people have been killed in south Sudan when explosives-laden radios and electronic equipment blew up, police said.

Police called for vigilance and said they had launched an investigation. Three people died in the southern capital Juba on Friday after one person was killed in a similar blast on Thursday in Lainya, west of Juba.

"My brother bought the radio receiver that killed him ... here in Juba and left for Lainya. I was told by phone that on arrival he turned the radio on and was listening to one of his favourite stations when the radio blew up," said Alex Wani.

Police patrols discovered 10 more electronic devices containing explosives in Juba's markets. They said the vendors appeared to be unaware of the explosives.

"We were able to detect some TNT from 10 small radio receivers and tape recorders," Captain Daniel Barnaba, who commanded the patrols, told Reuters.

Police said they did not know the motive for the blasts and did not believe those killed had been targeted individually.

People were urged by police to be on the alert in Juba which is trying to rebuild after a 2005 peace deal between the government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement ended more than two decades of north-south civil war.

"We were already informed earlier that some of the terrorists had smuggled some explosives here in the south, and we are still tracing them," a senior security officer said, asking not to be named.

"There is a need to be alert and vigilant, for we never know what will come next." He did not say who he suspected was responsible for the blasts.

Darfur/DPA

SLM Minnawi accuses Sudanese army of attacking HQ in Darfur

(AFP – 30th Sept. Khrt.) SLM-Minnawi has accused the Sudanese army Saturday of launching an attack on its headquarters and has threatened to withdraw from the GoNU in protest at Thursday's assault, which it said it had repulsed.

"A group of armed men belonging to the government army on Thursday attacked our general command headquarters in Giraida during a visit by SLM deputy chairman Dr Al Rayah

Mahmoud Jumaa and SLM army commander Jumaa Mohamed Haggar,” spokesman Al Tayeb Khamis Mohamed told the Al Sudani daily.

He said SLM forces “managed to repulse the assault and take 14 of the attackers prisoner”, adding that the POWs “confessed that they belonged to the (government) armed forces”.

He accused the army of deliberately targeting the top SLM officials and warned that the movement would withdraw from the government in Khartoum if there were any further violations of the May peace deal signed in Abuja.

“The government should bear in mind that the Movement (SLM) still maintains its forces,” the SLM spokesman warned.

“When it becomes certain that the peace agreement was only a means for deception, it will order the senior presidential assistant (SLM mainstream leader Minni Minnawi) to leave the Republican Palace and return to the war which will start from Khartoum.”

An armed forces spokesman denied that the army was behind the alleged raid, insisting that it continued to respect the Abuja agreement signed with Minnawi’s faction of the SLM.

“This is a strange report... Our forces cannot attack the SLM ... we respect the peace agreement we have concluded with them,” the spokesman told AFP, asking not to be identified.

“Only two days ago we had a meeting with the senior presidential assistant, Minni Minnawi, and the two sides agreed on starting implementation of the security arrangements agreement,” the spokesman added.

“The meeting also discussed the integration of 5,000 SLM men in the government army and other regular forces, and 3,000 others in the civil service.”

The alleged raid on the SLM mainstream headquarters came amid reports of intensified fighting in Darfur this month between government troops and rebel factions, which declined to sign the May peace deal.

Holdout group to hold general conference in territories they control

(*ALYaam*; 1st October..*Khrt*) The leadership of the Group of 19 is to start today intensive meetings in territories under its control in Darfur in order to arrange for a general conference of the various holdout faction.

Officers have already been dispatched to the field to prepare for the envisaged conference.

Ethiopian primer accuses Eritrea of destabilizing Darfur

(*ALRai Alaam* - 1st October..**Khrt**) Ethiopian premier, Mellis Zennawi, has accused Eritrea of destabilizing Darfur.

In a press conference in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian leader said that Eritrea deeply involved in the Darfur crisis through providing military training and arms to the rebel groups of Darfur.

USAID awards \$31 mln infrastructure contract for South Sudan

(*USAID/ST* – 29th Sept. **Washington**) The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has awarded the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) a one-year, \$31.85-million contract to improve infrastructure in Southern Sudan. The contract will support the building of roads, bridges, health facilities, and other vital structures to support economic growth and recovery in Southern Sudan.

The program represents a unique partnership for the Government of Southern Sudan, the U.S. Government, and UNOPS, which will work together with state ministries to identify and address critical structural needs in historically underserved or conflict-affected areas. Activities will focus on building primary health care centers, all-weather interstate gravel roads, bridges, major drainage structures, and other public works.

The program will also provide employment opportunities for displaced, returning, and other disadvantaged people and facilitate the return and reintegration of people affected by the country's two-decade civil war, which ended with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on January 9, 2005.