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UNMIS
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(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

➤ **United Nations**

- UNMIS warns that militias pose a threat to the peace process in southern Sudan
- UN's Annan hails Eastern Sudan Peace Deal
- IOM to promote the return of qualified Sudanese

➤ **United Nations and the Transition Debate**

- SRSG Pronk's visit to North Darfur
- UK's Benn says Darfur needs more troops
- Mubarak and Kadhafi discuss Sudan's Darfur

➤ **CPA**

- Tense atmosphere looms over south Kordofan State

➤ **GoNU**

- Parliament demands explanation over recent insecurity at el-Fasher market
- Security authorities stop AlArabiya TV channel correspondent in Sudan for the second time
- Darfur MPs may withdraw from parliamentary session

➤ **GoSS/ Southern Sudan**

- Paulino Matip threatens to close the Bank of Southern Sudan in protest over SPLA refusal to pay his forces
- GoSS finance and economy minister says GoSS is committed to transparency and accountability

➤ **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement**

- Darfur activists recommend compensations and annexes to the DPA
- Prominent Chadian high ranking military officer killed in Kariyari battle; National Redemption Front accuses Sudan government of committing atrocities in Kariyari
- National Redemption Front field commanders split to join rival faction
- Salva Kiir and al-Mirghani to mediate with Darfur rebels

➤ **Eastern Sudan**

- Eastern Front to nominate representatives to the GoNU

HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

UNMIS warns that militias pose a threat to the peace process in southern Sudan

(*AlSudani*) UNMIS Deputy Force Commander, Simon Karanja, has called on armed militias in southern Sudan to choose to either join the SAF or the SPLA because such groups that are aligned to neither of the two armies causes problems and tensions in southern Sudan and are a threat to the CPA.

He pointed out that those areas that have seen some disarmament witness relative calm and the people there feel real peace and stability compared to other areas.

He further pointed out that there are violations in some areas but added that some success has been made in Mutu and Akobo where many civilians handed back their guns.

The Deputy Force Commander warned that anyone armed person who is neither aligned to the SAF nor the SPLA will be considered as those working against the CPA.

He noted that the CPA was proceeding on track and said the United Nations will assist the GoSS in the disarmament of the civilians.

On the other hand, SPLA spokesperson Bior Ajang said that meetings between the leadership of the SPLA and southern Sudanese armed groups have culminated in the integration into the SPLA of 44,000 combatants from these groups. He pointed out that the remaining 19,000 yet to be integrated have chosen to join the SAF as they were being backed by the same but the SAF has only integrated 6,000 of this number.

The SPLA spokesperson accused SAF elements of urging some southern Sudanese militias to work against the SPLA.

UN's Annan hails Eastern Sudan Peace Deal

(*UN News* – 16th Oct. UN) UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan today welcomed the weekend signing of a peace agreement between the Sudanese Government and rebels from the east of the vast African country, ending a conflict there separate to those that have afflicted Darfur and the south.

In a statement issued by his spokesman, Annan noted that the Government and the Eastern Front signed the deal on Saturday in Asmara, the Eritrean capital, following mediation by that country.

"The Secretary-General expresses the hope that the agreement will consolidate the settlement of the conflict in eastern Sudan, and contribute to peace and stability throughout the country," the statement said, adding that the UN is ready to help implement the pact.

Government forces and the coalition of groups known as the Eastern Front had clashed in Sudan's east, close to the border with Eritrea, for several years.

IOM to promote the return of qualified Sudanese

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Public Information Consultant at the International Organisation for Migration said yesterday that the IOM would promote sustainable returns of qualified Sudanese under a new program termed the “Return of the Qualified Sudanese” and would facilitate their integration from both the IDP and refugee populations as well as the larger Diaspora abroad mainly to the ten states southern Sudan states where there is a shortage of skilled workers and professionals.

She also stated that the program addresses not only the immediate needs on the ground but will also make an invaluable contribution towards the long-term development process of northern and southern Sudan.

United Nations and the Transition Debate

SRSG Pronk’s visit to North Darfur

(*Most major local dailies*) In a meeting in el-Fasher yesterday with the *Wali* of North Darfur, SRSG Jan Pronk said that the support of 105 military experts, fund and logistics that the United Nations will be providing to AMIS is a direct form of implementation of the UNSCR 1706.

He pointed out that this will be used to strengthen the Ceasefire Commission which, he adds, has not been operating in the required form. He blamed the ceasefire monitoring body for the post-DPA deterioration in the security situation in Darfur.

On a possible transition of the AMIS to the United Nations, the SRSG said that the United Nations does not challenge the Sudan government’s rejection to the transition but would try to reach an understanding with the government over the issue.

Mr. Pronk pointed out that an earlier visit here by some members of the Security Council and their talks with officials in Khartoum and el-Fasher was to avert a confrontation between the Sudan government and the United Nations and to create foundations for dialogue and calm discussion in order to reach an understanding on what role the United Nations could play. He said that this dialogue continued between the Sudan government and the United Nations until UNSCR 1706 was issued.

AllIntibaha notes that Pronk also said that support and coordination with the AMIS will continue for the next three months after which there will be “a new situation” but did not elaborate on what this new situation will be like.

Quoting PI Officer Gadallah el-Radi, the *Khartoum Monitor* adds that the SRSG will hold discussions with the SLM and is expected back in Khartoum on Wednesday. The paper further reveals that Mr. Pronk had earlier visited South Darfur where he met government officials as well as SLM non-signatories and discussed issues related to the current situation in Darfur.

UK’s Benn says Darfur needs more troops

(*Reuters* – 16th Oct. **Khrt.**) More troops are needed to stem the violence in Sudan’s Darfur region, where struggling African Union forces are failing to protect millions of endangered civilians, a British minister said on Monday.

Minister for International Development Hilary Benn, on a one-day visit to Sudan, did not manage to convince President Omar Hassan al-Bashir to accept a U.N. Security Council

resolution to deploy 22,500 U.N. forces in Darfur and so avoid a confrontation with the international community.

"(Bashir) does recognize that there's a need for more troops on the ground," Benn told Reuters late on Monday night.

The Sudanese president had acknowledged that transition to a United Nations force would deal with the AU force's funding problem "although he remains opposed to the transfer to a U.N. mission," Benn said in an interview.

Benn said the AU could not adequately patrol Darfur, a remote western region the size of France, because it could not find enough soldiers and did not have the money to fund them.

He said the U.N. Security Council would soon have to look at other options if Bashir continued to refuse a U.N. mission, but said African and other leaders were trying to persuade Bashir that a U.N. mission was the way forward.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol said Khartoum was pushing the option of an 'AU plus' force which would include U.N. logistical, technical and financial support.

On the DPA, Benn said the deal needed to be clarified through discussions with those who did not sign it.

But he acknowledged it would be difficult to convince the government to agree to any additions or changes to the text of the accord.

Mubarak and Kadhafi discuss Sudan's Darfur

(AFP- 16th Oct. Tripoli) Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi held talks on how to resolve the Darfur crisis in Sudan without intervention from outside Africa, Libyan officials said.

Their meeting in Tripoli focused on efforts "to find a settlement with the Sudanese government through the African Union (AU)", one source said.

They were agreed on "rejecting any foreign intervention in Darfur".

** AlIntibaha daily carries a story under the headline "Egypt proposes international force from Arab and Muslim counties for Darfur". The paper does not go into detail but only says that the proposal was presented to the US and that the US has, in turn, shown support for the proposals.*

CPA

Tense atmosphere looms over south Kordofan State

(AlAyaam) Tension is back between the Misseriya, Kasha and Mandal tribes of the Labdah area in South Kordofan following the withdrawal of the Central Reserve Forces from the area.

Sources report that the Central Reserve Forces have withdrawn from the area due to a shortage in their budget of 1.6 million Sudanese Dinars per month but the commissioner for el-Deleng said the forces have withdrawn to take over another task in a border area.

Observers warn the situation may explode in the area following the recent return of tribal patrols. The commissioner attributes the return of these patrols to the fear each tribe holds for the other.

GoNU

Parliament demands explanation over recent insecurity at el-Fasher market

(Rai AlShaab) The parliamentary Security and Defence Committee has called for a meeting with the Minister of the Interior to discuss the recent incidents of looting at the el-Fasher market. He said these incidents reflect the activities of the holdout groups along the border area with Chad.

The chairman of the committee said that the committee held a meeting yesterday with the Director-General of Police. He further pointed out that the purpose of these meetings is to guarantee the highest level of coordination possible between the parliamentary security and defence committee and the Ministry of the Interior.

Security authorities stop AlArabiya TV channel correspondent in Sudan for the second time

(Rai AlShaab) The Sudanese security authorities have detained *AlArabiya* TV channel correspondent in Sudan Saad Eldin Hassan Abdullah for the second time.

He was arrested detained for some hours but reasons for the arrest are not clear yet.

Sources report that during the interrogation, security authorities focused on the news coverage *AlArabiya* made of the current political developments in Sudan and particularly on the developments in the Amri area in northern Sudan, the construction site of a new hydro-electric dam on the Nile.

Darfur MPs may withdraw from parliamentary session

MPs for Darfur are to withdraw from the first parliamentary session when parliament comes out of recess on 30th October.

The move is in protest against the slow implementation of the DPA, parliamentary sources told *AlAdhwaa*.

The MPs have called for the emptying of the IDPs camps and for immediate compensations for the people in the region.

- ❖ V-P Kiir received US envoy Andrew Natsios yesterday. Talks between the two focused on the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement, progress in the implementation of the CPA and means to resolve the Darfur crisis.

GoSS/ Southern Sudan

Paulino Matip threatens to close the Bank of Southern Sudan in protest over SPLA refusal to pay his forces

(*AlIntibaha*) SPLA Chief of Staff, Wayai Deng, told SPLA commander Paulino Matip in a meeting last Friday that the SPLA will not be able to integrate about 900 former SSDF combatants (all college graduates) into its ranks so as to “avoid the domination of the army by the Nuer”.

Matip warned the SPLA of the consequences of its refusal to pay these combatants unless they are demoted and pointed out that this will be a violation of the Juba Declaration.

Matip has threatened to close down the Bank of Southern Sudan should the SPLA continue to refuse to pay these officers until tomorrow, Wednesday.

GoSS finance and economy minister says GoSS is committed to transparency and accountability

(*Khartoum Monitor*)The minister of Finance and Economic Planning in the Government of Southern Sudan, Arthur Akwuein, said the government is committed to transparency and accountability at all levels.

In a media briefing on Monday, the minister said the GoSS has had no sources for generating revenue, since its formation in November 2005, but entirely depends on oil returns, pointing out difficulties encountered in oil money represented in transfers of GoSS oil share from the central government to the south Sudan.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Darfur activists recommend compensations and annexes to the DPA

(*AlAyaam et al*) A meeting that brought together President Bashir, Presidential Aide Mini Minnawi on the one hand and Darfur political activists on the other has recommended individual compensations, complimentary annexes to the Darfur Peace Agreement, deferment of the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue Conference until after a comprehensive peace is reached, disarmament of the Janjaweed and safe return routes once areas of return are deemed safe.

President Bashir expressed pleasure over the outcome of the meeting and called for more such consultations. The president, on the other hand, described the recent Sudan Peace Act signed by US president Bush as a punishment to Sudan and an incentive to the holdout groups.

On his part, Minnawi called for the release before the end of the month of Ramadhan of those detained in connection to the crisis in Darfur. He also called for a speedy implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and underlined the need to bring the holdout groups on board.

Prominent Chadian high ranking military officer killed in Kariyari battle; National Redemption Front accuses Sudan government of committing atrocities in Kariyari

A prominent high ranking Chadian military officer, General AbdulKarim Sinewy has been killed in Kariyari area while in a battle with the Darfurian NRF against the Sudanese Armed Forces.

The general was a prominent figure in the Chadian military, sources told *Rai AlShaab*

National Redemption Front field commanders split to join rival faction

AlKuwat AlMusalah (the SAF mouthpiece) reports that a group of NRF field commanders have split from the National Redemption Front and joined the Justice and Equality Movement peace faction.

The paper said that the officer took this step after being convinced that war was not of benefit.

Salva Kiir and al-Mirghani to mediate with Darfur rebels

(*SudanTribune.com* – 16th Oct. **Khrt.**) The first Vice President Salva Kiir Mayadrit and the Chairperson of the National Democratic Alliance Mohamed Osman al-Mirghani will lead a Sudanese initiative hold a new round of talks with Darfur hold rebels in Asmara.

Salva Kiir Mayadrit and Mohamed Osman al-Mirghani will engage consultations with the Darfur rebels groups opposed to the Darfur Peace Agreement in coordination with of the Eritrean government.

According to Khartoum based Alray al-Aam, the Eritrean government started already contacts with the rebels and they okayed the initiative.

Chairperson of organizational affairs in the ruling People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ), Abdallah Jabir told the paper that two of the leaders of the National redemption Front: Ahmed Ibrahim Diraig and Sharif Harir, besides leaders of two factions of the SLM: Ahmed Abdelshafi Bassey and Abdelwahid al-Nur, agreed to hold talks with Sudanese government to join Abuja agreement.

The head of SPLM parliamentary group, Yasir Arman said in Khartoum after a meeting with the SPLM chairman that it was agreed after a meeting with the Eritrean president that Salva Kiir will supervise joint Eritrean Sudanese efforts to hold the second Darfur conference in Asmara.

Eastern Sudan

Eastern Front to nominate representatives to the GoNU

(*AlSudani*) The Eastern Front says it will hold its general conference ten days after the Eid holidays.

The Eastern Front intends to nominate its representatives to the GoNU during that conference which will be held in areas it controls in eastern Sudan.