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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

Activities of SRSB Pronk

SRSB Pronk was in el-Fasher yesterday where he held talks with members of the executive office of the SLM-Minnawi.

In an exclusive statement to *Akhbar Alyaum*, the Information Officer at the SLM office in the state said that Pronk held talks with key members of the executive office of the SLM in North Darfur and focused on the peace process and the current situation in Darfur.

The movement, he said affirmed its commitment to the peace process.

Lt. Gen el-Dabi warns SRSB Pronk that the army is a “red line”

The latest criticism of the report on Mr. Pronk’s blog (weblog Nr. 35) comes from Lt. Gen. Mohamed Ahmed el-Dabi, President Bashir’s Assistant on Darfur, who has described the report on the lowering morale within the SAF in Darfur as a blatant fabrication and misleading.

El-Dabi told the *Sudan Media Service* [also reported by the *AlKuwat AlMusalaha* and *AlAdhwaa dailies*] that Mr. Pronk’s statement sends wrong signals and exaggerates the insecurity in Darfur and thus helps the Abuja non-signatories to remain unflinching in their position.

The Lt. Gen. warned that the SAF is a “red line” that Mr. Pronk should keep away from and should instead focus on his mandated tasks.

“It may seem that Pronk’s past statements were not an awakening of his conscious but rather a Trojan horse”, he added.

United Nations vehicle involved in accident at the Afra junction

Alwatan carries in its front page a short report on a motor vehicle accident involving a United Nations land cruiser at the Afra junction.

The story is accompanied by a picture showing the United Nations vehicle involved in the accident (apparently a WFP 4x4 pickup).

The story goes at length to mention the problems caused by United Nations vehicles as they cruise to and from their “military base on the Obeid Khitim Road and the civilian base at Garden City”.

The paper says that furious passers-by rained insults at the driver of the United Nations vehicle.

A positive note in the report is what the paper describes as the driver’s patience in receiving the insults. The paper said that things would have gone out of hand had the driver reacted to these insults.

United Nations and the Transition Debate

Egypt urges Sudan, int'l community dialogue on Darfur

(*Xinhua* – 18th Oct. **Cairo**) Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit Wednesday called for a dialogue between the Sudanese government and the international community on the deployment of UN forces in Sudan's western region of Darfur, the official news agency MENA reported.

Aboul Gheit made the remarks during a meeting with visiting Norwegian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Raymond Johansen.

Egypt has also called for a news resolution from the Security Council that respects Sudan's sovereignty and its legal and judicial system and that will focus on the acceptable aspects as opposed to the areas of contention in UNSCR 1706. Egypt underlines the need for a “third route” or alternative solution that will allow for a transition of the AMIS to a United Nations operation.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alaa al-Hadidi said the Egyptian-Norwegian talks welcomed a peace agreement that was reached recently between the Khartoum government and eastern rebels in the Eritrean capital Asmara.

Activities of the US envoy

The governor of South Darfur has warned that a crisis of a proportion the world has never before seen world occur should a United Nations force deploy to Darfur, reports *Akhbar Alyaum*.

The governor who was briefing the visiting US envoy and representatives of the United Nations and African Union in Nyala yesterday called upon the US government to support the African Union in carrying out its tasks in Darfur.

He described the situation in his state as calm with the exception of some clashes in Gereida, Muhajjiriya and Burram that led to the displacement of 1,800 families to Nyala and Seiseban.

Of the food situation, he said that the decrease in food assistance to the IDPs has reflected negatively on their lives. He said his government is ready to cooperate with the international community through a joint plan that covers the security aspects.

On his part, Mr. Natsios agreed there was a need for continued assistance to the IDPs and for his country to contribute to solutions to the crisis in Darfur in order to prevent what he described as a “fourth war” in the region.

The US envoy said he believes that the right way for a talks between all parties to the conflict and commended the Government of South Darfur for the tribal reconciliation conferences it is sponsoring.

GoNU

French and UK sources reveal US plan to fragment Sudan and invade Egypt in 2015

French and UK sources reveals that there is a potential danger to Egypt, reports *Alwan* daily.

A military researche affirmed in a report on the French daily *Le Monde* that the CIA, the MOSSAD and Darfur rebel groups are coordinating with the aim to destabilise the region and spread chaos all over the country in order to force Sudanese to live their lands and thus justify a deployment of international forces in Darfu.

The researcher surmises that the next step would be to target the High Dam in Egypt and some major towns in Libya. The SAF, he says, may also be crippled and a new pro-US government established in Sudan, thus causing a replay of the scenario of Iraq in Sudan.

Foreign ministry official responds to statement over BBC by alleged former Janjaweed attacks in Darfur

The Government of National Unity denied claims over supporting the Janjaweed in Darfur, *AlRai ALAam* reports.

The spokes person of the Foreign Ministry Ali el-Sadig said that the government is working to disarm the Janjaweed. He suspects the credibility of the source that reported this news to the BBC and said he might have done this to have the right to political asylum.

Key suspect in editor's assassination is caught, according to rumours

Rumours are circulating the rounds in Khartoum that authorities have caught a key suspect in the assassination f the AlWifaq editor-in-chief.

AlRai ALAam could not get any further details of this development.

Experts underline the need for impartiality in the Commission for Human Rights

Yesterday, all members participating in the discussion session over the Human Right Commission law agreed upon the need for the impartiality of the HRC. *AlSudani*.

State of emergency updates

The Council of Ministers has revealed that a presidential decree will soon be issued lifting the state of emergency in eastern Sudan and ordering a release of political detainees, *AlAdhwaa* reports.

Elsewhere in Darfur, the Governor of North Darfur has ordered lifting of the state of emergency on el-Fasher and its environs. The state of emergency there has been in place for the last three years.

GoSS/ Southern Sudan

Preparations underway for Museveni reception in Juba

Khartoum Monitor reports that the political sector committee of Bahr-el-Jebel government, under the leadership of the Governor Major General Clement Wani Konga, left yesterday to discuss the arrangements and the nature of an impending visit to Juba by Ugandan President Museveni at the state level.

It constituted a working technical committee to that effect.

According to the Bahr el- Jebel State information minister, citizens will be mobilised to line up the streets of Juba to greet the Ugandan leader.

SPLA crackdown on clergy

Khartoum Monitor reports that at least six people, including a tribal chief were arrested over the weekend by the SPLA for allegedly having destroyed a fence erected by the forces north of Juba airport at Rokon area.

“Chief Terensio Wani and five other youth from Kworijik area are currently being detained at the SPLA intelligence house in Juba without any cross-examination and relatives of the detainees are denied access to the cell, said an eyewitness who refused to be named.

LRA claims PDF battalion was killed in self-defence

(AP – 18th Oct. **Kampala**) Rebels fighting a brutal 19-year conflict in northern Uganda have killed a Ugandan battalion commander in southern Sudan, violating a month and a half truce, the army spokesman said Wednesday.

Capt. Sam Mugarura, commander of Uganda’s 91st Battalion based in southern Sudan, was shot while walking to his battalion’s headquarters, said Maj. Felix Kulayigye, the army spokesman.

Deputy Defense Minister Ruth Nankabirwa said, "The killing of Capt. Mugarura is a blatant violation of the cessation of hostilities agreement which they (the rebels) signed. It is a major concern to the people of Uganda who have been hoping for peace talks to succeed."

Neither said that this would make Uganda reconsider its participation in the talks.

A spokesman for the Lord’s Resistance Army, Godfrey Ayo, denied that members of his group killed the Ugandan officer, saying that there are many armed groups in southern Sudan that could have killed the officer.

Each side has repeatedly accused the other of violating the increasingly fragile truce.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Sudan accuses Chad of attacking Darfur positions

(*Xinhua* – 18th Oct. **Khrt.**) The Sudanese army has accused Chad of backing rebels in the western region of Darfur by launching air raids at Sudan’s army positions near the borders, local daily al-Sahafa reported on Wednesday.

"Chad is trying to cover the movements of the rebels by means of planes," a high-ranking army officer was quoted as saying, without mentioning his name.

Refraining from describing Chad’s military involvement in Darfur as a war between the two neighboring countries, the officer said that the Sudanese army engaged in the recent fightings "against a country rather than armed groups".

He denied the recent remarks by Jan Pronk, special representative of the UN secretary general in Sudan, that the Sudanese army had suffered "big casualties" in recent fighting in Darfur, saying the remarks "were not totally right".

Parties express readiness to dialogue over Darfur

JEM leader Dr. Khalil Ibrahim says the JEM is ready to dialogue with the government for a comprehensive peace but points out that autonomy for Darfur is key to peace talks over Darfur, reports *Akhbar Alyaum*.

He pointed out that Darfur represents 40% of the country's population and that the people there may demand self-determination if not granted autonomy.

In a *Reuters* report quoted by *Akhbar Alyaum* daily, the JEM leader has asked Mini Minnawi to re-join rebel ranks on the grounds that the SLM leader has been politically marginalised in Khartoum and has lost his edge over Darfur.

Senior Presidential Aide Mini Minnawi says dialogue with political activists is required for an end to the Darfur crisis.

On his part, Presidential Advisor Majzoub el-Khalifa underlined the need for talks with Abuja non-signatories in order to bring an end to the fighting in Darfur.

It is worth noting that yesterday's local press reports had it that President Bashir has confirmed the government is ready for talks with the Abuja holdout groups and may consider annexes to the Darfur Peace Agreement but pointed out that this should be done through dialogue and not through the barrel of the gun.

Eritrean government holds talks with armed group of Darfur

Efforts by the Sudanese government to bring on board the DPA non-signatory factions have entered an advanced stage regarding the issue of attaining a comprehensive peace in Darfur and protecting the country from the looming danger of an international intervention in Darfur before the end of the African Union mission in next December, reports *AlWihda* local daily.

A government delegation has travelled to Eritrea to discuss the issue with top Eritrean government officials.

Eritrea's foreign minister says his country is working seriously to convince the IDP non-signatory factions on board. He said that the year 2006 will witness peace in Darfur as it has in the East. He added that Eritrea will exert the best efforts to achieve peace through its distinguish relations with Darfur movements.

African Development Bank and World Bank conclude preliminary needs assessment for Darfur

AlSudani reports that during his meeting with the African Development Bank mission that was assessing the post-war needs for Darfur, finance minister Lual Deng underlined the need to include infrastructure, water, education and pastoralist children and women development projects.

Head of the ADB mission said that the Bank has finished issuing the first primary report. He added that throw the field work, the mission has counted Darfur's real needs.

Eastern Sudan

Gedharef Speaker resigns in protest over eastern peace accord

Gedharef State Legislative Assembly speaker KaramAlla El Sheikh expressed his absolute objection of the agreement by resigning from his post, *The Citizen* daily reports.

He argued that Eastern Front had no genuine justification qualifying them to hold any position in Gedharef.

The departing Gedhareif State Assembly speaker questioned whether Gedharef is actually one of the eastern states.

Eastern Front guerrillas to be integrated into the SAF

The Council of ministers, in its extraordinary session yesterday, chaired by President Omer el-Bahir, endorsed the East peace deal. The Council urged transparency and strong commitment in implementing the deal.

Council of the Ministers spokesman Omer Mohamed Salih told reporters after yesterday's session that the council listened to East Peace talks delegation head Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail's reports.

Saleh explained that the Eastern Front combatants are to be offered integration into the Sudan Armed Forces.