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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

United Nations has no intentions to send peacekeepers to Chad

The United Nations has denied having plans in the pipeline to send peacekeepers to Chad to monitor the situation in Darfur, reports *AlKhartoum*.

The paper said that UNMIS Spokesperson Radhia Achouri said that what the Security Council said on the need to improve the humanitarian conditions of the IDP is nothing new and DPKO chief, Mr. Guehenno, did not indicate that the United Nations will be sending peacekeepers to Chad. She said she had no further comments to make on the issue and that the United Nations does not deal with press reports.

What he did say, she adds, is that the United Nations intends to send an assessment mission to monitor the humanitarian situation caused by the conflict along the border areas and its negative impacts on the citizens and the IDPs residing along that border stretch.

This assessment mission, adds the spokesperson, has nothing to do with the expulsion of SRSG Pronk or with UNMIS that continues to carry out its duties normally.

She further pointed out that the Security Council has expressed its concerns in more than one occasion on the situation in Chad and the border conflicts between Chad and Sudan and the deterioration of the situation in Darfur.

She declined to comment on the duties of the assessment mission saying that it is premature to do so.

Clarification from the Office of the Spokesperson:

"The Al Khartoum report is not accurate. In response to questions from the newspaper on when the UN will be deployed in Chad, whether UNMIS will be the one to deploy troops in Chad and if the decision of the Security Council to deploy forces in Chad was related to the decision of the Sudan Government to expel SRSG Jan Pronk, the spokesperson indicated that what USG Guehenno informed the UN Security Council that an assessment mission will be sent to Chad and CAR to assess what the UN could do in order to assist IDP and refugee population . The journalist argued that all media reports were talking about a decision to deploy in Chad. The spokesperson reiterated that USG Guehenno referred to an assessment mission and that she that she had no further comments on what the press reported. On UNMIS role, the Spokesperson indicated that the assessment mission has to do its work first and present options and that its was too early to speculate on who would be doing what. Regarding SRSG Pronk, she indicated that there was no connection between the tow issues cited by the journalist the UNSC has been consistently following up on the situation around the border area between the three countries and the impact of violence on the stability of the region as well as on the IDP and refugee communities. The UN decision to send an assessment mission is to be looked at in that context"

Ministry of Foreign Affairs accepts that SRSB Pronk could come in to visit

AlRai AlAam reports that Foreign Minister Dr. Lam Akol has formally informed the United Nations that SRSB Jan Pronk could visit the country in order to formally hand over the duties of SRSB to his successor and to collect his personal belongings before a final departure.

The *New York Times* meanwhile reported Sunday that the United Nations that SRSB Pronk will maintain only a symbolic figure as SRSB until his contract expires at the end of this year.

United Nations and the Transition Debate

Holland backs United Nations support for the African Union in Darfur

The visiting Dutch foreign minister says her country backs the push for a United Nations support to the African Union in Darfur, reports *AlHayat*.

Following a meeting with his visiting counterpart, Sudan's foreign minister Dr. Lam Akol said that implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement will bring about a de-escalation of the situation on the ground but pointed out that this requires disarmament of the armed groups.

On the implementation of the CPA, the foreign minister pointed out that there are internal problems [*which he declined to name*] and external problems, notably lack of donor commitment to the pledges, hampering the process.

GoNU

National Security & Intelligence chief to lead efforts to contact DPA non-signatories

The executive committee on Darfur yesterday charged Sudan's security and intelligence chief to head a committee in charge of contacting the Abuja non-signatory parties.

The committee sitting yesterday nominated leaders to its sub-committees and Minnawi has been cited as the head of the sub-committee charged with monitoring implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement. Foreign minister Lam Akol and environment minister Babiker Nahar have been named heads of the sub-committees for external relations and the Darfur Dialogue respectively. *AlAyaam*

Egypt asserts need for Sudanese territorial unity

(*SudanTribune.com* – 29th Oct. **Cairo**) Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul-Gheit reiterated Egypt's keenness on protecting Sudan's territorial integrity and supporting its reconciliation process.

In an address on Sunday 29 October he directed to a conference on the future of Egyptian-Sudanese integration that opened at Cairo University today, he said that Egypt and Sudan share the same destiny and future and have a very special strategic relationship.

According to the minister, Egypt has always blessed efforts to serve Sudan's peace and stability and resolve inter-Sudanese differences.

The minister, in the address read out on his behalf by director of Sudan Department at the Foreign Ministry Sabir Mansur, highlighted ongoing Egyptian endeavours to back Sudan's

peace march and resolve its problem with the international community that erupted after the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution 1706.

GoSS/ Southern Sudan

GoSS legislative body ratifies Southern Sudan Criminal Code

The GoSS legislative assembly has ratified the southern Sudan Criminal Code that draws its legislature from the 1974 criminal law, the SPLM/A criminal code and traditional laws.

Tor Deng, the Speaker of the GoSS assembly pointed out that this is the first such law for southern Sudan. He said that the law also incorporates international human rights issues and will soon be enacted in southern Sudanese courts.

Uganda urges South Sudan to stop food supplies to rebel LRA

(*New Vision* – 29th Oct. **Kampala**) Ugandan government urged southern Sudan government to stop food supplies to the rebel LRA in a move to press them to join the designated assembly points.

The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CHA) provides that the rebels must assemble at Owiny Kibul and at Ri-Kwangba in South Sudan. The rebels, however, only picked supplies in Owiny Kibul and disappeared. They have since rejected the area, claiming that it is mined and surrounded by the UPDF.

"The two teams have agreed to amend the CHA and they are working on it now. The fact that the rebels collected food from Owiny Kibul does not mean that they assembled," Nankabirwa said during press conference at the Media Centre yesterday.

"We would like to see an amendment that makes the collection of food by LRA that are not assembled a violation of the agreement," she added.

She said assembling means reporting to the centres, registering and being looked after in terms of security and feeding.

She said the addendum for the amendment was set to be signed yesterday or today, adding that it would specify sanctions against any violation and the obligations of the Government of South Sudan.

Nankabirwa regretted last week's attacks near Juba and partially attributed them to the LRA.

"We are investigating the attacks. Partial results indicate there are other groups in Southern Sudan that are involved, maybe groups that do not want the peace talks to succeed.

Darfur

NRF accuses "government-backed Janjaweed" of raids on IDP camps in W. Darfur

Akhbar Alyaum reports that the NRF has accused "government-backed Janjaweed" of raiding yesterday morning some IDP camps northwest of the Jebel Moun area in an attempt to "wipe those villages of the negroid presence".

Ahmed Abdalla Jamjoom, a prominent member of the NRF and press advisor to the deputy head of the JEM, specifically singled out some Arab tribes of forming Janjaweed bands to carry out these raids in which, he adds, the Janjaweed came on 1,000 horses followed by about 70 motor vehicles carrying a variety of light and heavy guns. He says 109 people were killed and 317 injured and a number of villages destroyed.

The governor of W. Darfur denies such an attack and described the accusations as unfounded.

He accused NRF operatives of looting camel and livestock owned by the Arab tribes but said a committee has been formed to investigate.

Government accuses SLM Minnawi of attacks around Sheirya

Akhbar Alyaum: The Commissioner for Sheirya has accused the Minnawi faction of the SLM of scorching 50 villages in Sheirya in the last two weeks thus displacing 80,000 to Sileiya, leaving 51 dead and 17 injured in the process.

Speaking at a SUNA forum yesterday, the commissioner cited as evidence of SLM involvement a Land Cruiser vehicle with SLM markings captured by the authorities.

SLM warns of possible attacks on el-Obeid and other towns

Akhbar Alyaum: A field commander for SLM-Minnawi has warned of possible attacks by the NRF on key towns in West Darfur.

Field commander Bushara Kabbaro said that they have reliable information that the NRF backed by the Chadian government is preparing to launch an offensive on villages in Darfur and North Kordofan.

Chad's army encircles rebel convoy in east- official

(*Reuters* – 29th Oct. N'Djamena) Chad's armed forces encircled a rebel convoy in the far east of the country on Sunday taking many prisoners in fierce fighting just a day after N'Djamena accused Sudan of bombing the region, the defence minister said.

Government forces pursuing the convoy, which was heading for Sudan's Darfur region after briefly seizing two Chadian towns earlier this week, encircled it in the scrubland around Hadjer Meram some 70 km (44 miles) from the border, the minister said.

"We were pursuing the rebels and we encircled them. Heavy fighting took place this morning," Defence Minister Bichara Issa Djadallah told Reuters. He said it was too early to give casualty figures, but the army had taken many rebel prisoners.

Last week a heavily armed convoy of the newly formed United Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD) penetrated deep into Chad before melting into the desert as government reinforcements arrived.

N'Djamena said the rebels fled to Sudan and it repeated accusations that Khartoum was backing the insurgency.

Chadian army chief killed in clashes with rebels; Chad's army encircles rebel convoy in east

(*Reuters* – 29th Oct. N'Djamena) The joint head of Chad's armed forces was killed in fierce fighting with rebels near the Sudanese border on Sunday, the defence minister said, in a heavy blow to embattled President Idriss Deby.

Defence Minister Bichara Issa Djadallah claimed victory in Sunday's fighting and said more than 100 rebels were killed after government forces clashed with a convoy of insurgents which had briefly seized two Chadian towns this week.

But the death of General Moussa Sougui was a major setback to Deby, coming only months after the rebels killed his nephew and head of the army, Brigadier General Ababar Youssouf Mahamat Itno, in March. The armed forces have been drained by a steady trickle of desertions and relations with Sudan are tense.

"The (rebel) mercenaries sustained around 100 dead, several prisoners and 15 vehicles destroyed. ... On the side of the forces of defence and security, there were four dead, including General Moussa Sougui who fell on the field of honour," read a communiqué signed by the minister.

The fighting took place at Saraf Borgou, a village close to the border with Sudan, which Deby's government accuses of supporting and arming the rebels. With the rebel's escape route severed to Sudan's western region of Darfur, Djadallah said the army would mop up the remaining fighters.

"Surrounded in an area with no way out, the mercenaries at the service of Sudan have no chance of escaping this cleaning up operation," his statement said.