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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

PDSRSG Zerioun officially takes over

Akhbar Alyaum: The government of Sudan its relations with the United Nations in Sudan is governed by the SOFA that calls for mutual respect.

“The United Nations will get our full support if it respects the SOFA”, says a spokesman for Sudan's foreign ministry.

Ambassador Ali el-Sadiq added that SRSG Pronk will be allowed in the country to formally hand over to his replacement but will not be allowed to make contact with any Sudanese official, hold press conferences or travel out of Khartoum or to any other part of country.

He said that no date has been cited for Mr. Pronk’s return and added that Pronk will be returning as any ordinary Dutch citizen visiting the Sudan and not the SRSG. He will be here on a short visit that will only allow him to officially hand over to his successor and collect his personal belongings.

The spokesperson further pointed out that the SOFA governs relations between the Sudan and the United Nations.

On the other hand, cabinet affairs minister Deng Alor met yesterday with PDSRSG Taye Zerioun who informed him he will be taking over from Mr. Pronk.

The minister said that the PDSRSG expressed hopes for continued cooperation between the two sides and expressed confidence that the Sudan government and the United Nations will be able to overcome the tensions.

Cabinet affairs minister says UNMIS has evidence of SAF involvement in Juba raids

Akhbar Alyaum: Speaking before parliament, cabinet minister Deng Alor said that preliminary investigations have revealed that SAF elements were involved in the recent raids on civilians near Juba.

He said that so far 15 SAF soldiers from northern and southern Sudan have been arrested in connection with these raids and added that the UNMIS in Juba has photographic evidence to prove that elements of the SAF were involved.

He said that the investigations are being carried out in secrecy and that a final report will soon be tabled before the Presidency of the Republic.

Of the militia groups in southern Sudan, the minister pointed out that these forces will be considered as part of the SAF unless they clearly declare they are joining the SPLA. He also pointed out that their presence threatens peace and stability in the region.

The minister further pointed out that the committee on Abyei that he co-chairs alongside Presidential Advisor Dr. Mustafa Osman would soon table its report to the higher committee that will in turn report to the Presidency.

Of the SPLM, the minister admitted that conflicts within the SPLM have caused it to be marginalised by the National Congress Party. He lamented that Vice-President Salva Kiir and the state minister for energy and mining are totally in the dark on the oil dossier.

CPA

Abyei citizens to sue Presidency before the Constitutional Court over Abyei issue

AlAyaam has learnt that citizens from Abyei intend to seek assistance from the Constitutional Court to push the Presidency to resolve the Abyei issue.

GoNU

Al-Basher announces road map to transform the country from war to peace

Sudan Vision: President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omar el-Bashir, has announced the government's readiness to set up a five year plan starting 2007 to 2011 aimed at transforming the country from the stage of war and instability to peace, stability and voluntary unity. He added that the country will gather all its national resources and will exploit all its external relations for the success of this plan.

The President who was addressing the opening session of the third round of the Interim National Assembly yesterday morning described the plan as an ambitious project that will become a forum for strategic planning as well as other forums, which he did not name. He stressed the National Assembly's role in passing the plan.

In the same address the President reviewed the main features of this plan, which consists of seven axes, The most significant of these are achievements of sustainable peace, enhancement of voluntary national unity and the reinforcement of the culture for national dialogue, peaceful political competition as an alternative for conflicts and clashes, promotion of capacities of defence and security institutions in addition to number of items detailed in a separate document. [*The Khartoum Monitor produces a translation of the full text of the President's speech before parliament*].

Government, SLM-Minnawi trade accusations

AlSahafa: Senior Assistant to the President and SLM leader Minni Minnawi has accused the government of planning a comprehensive war on Darfur by mobilizing and arming the Janjaweed militias in South Darfur.

On the other hand, *AlAyaam* reports that SLA spokesperson Jar elNabi Abdulkareem has accused the government yesterday of bombarding three villages in North Darfur. He also accused them with attacking Ain Serwa and Abu Sikeen with the help of the Janjaweed.

The Office of the Spokesman of the SAF has denied the accusations and said these were only tribal clashes and that the SAF is working to calm the situations in the region.

The Citizen also reports that the SLM-Minnawi has denied the accusations of Sheria commissioner Hussein Omer that its men staged an attack on his locality two weeks ago.

SLM Information Secretary Mohamed Adam said that his movement was not part of the AlSharei incidents and accused instead the National Congress Party's design to undermine and

weaken the movement. He moreover accused Darfur states Government of torturing and terrorizing people.

Ministry of the Interior concludes investigations over newspaper editor's murder

AllIntibaha: The ministry of Interior has arrested seven suspects in connection to the murder of the *AlWifaq* editor in chief, Mohamed Taha Mohamed Ahmed. The suspects have confessed participation in the crime, says the ministry.

The ministry confirms that the seven suspects hail from one of the biggest tribes in western Sudan. It added that the main reason for the crime is an article in *AlWifaq* which they considered as insulting. Sources denied the involvement of any fundamental Islamic group in the incident.

Khartoum Monitor reprimanded after complaint by Foreign Ministry

Khartoum Monitor via *SudanTribune.com*: On 16 September 2006, the Foreign Ministry lodged a complaint to the effect that the newspaper had published an article dated 14 September 2006, issue No. 1004, page 4, entitled - Lam Akol fails in mission to USA - and the said article claimed that the foreign minister, state minister for foreign affairs and the director of information and public relations are mouthpieces and perpetrators of genocide as well as the Islamic extremists, ... etc.

The complaint stated that the content of the said article was a blatant deviation from the laws and rules of news coverage, and also a violation of press covenant of honour and used offensive language against the leaders of the foreign ministry and its staff.

The editor-in-chief, Alfred Taban, was summoned and stated that he was liable for the content of the article in accordance with article 27 of Press and Publications Act 2004 and argued that the article was general criticism and personal opinion of its author. He added that many a web site had carried a list of 51 persons against whom the said charges were raised, and that the writer of the article read the list particularly given that Darfur problem is a public problem that had been covered by newspapers and all media agencies.

GoSS/ Southern Sudan

Ugandan Acholis divided over Juba peace talks

(*The Monitor* – 30th Oct. **Kampala**) As talks between the LRA and the Uganda government stagger on in the South Sudan capital of Juba, the rift between Acholi in the Diaspora and those back home has once again come into the spotlight.

For the last 20 years that northern Uganda has been ripped apart by conflict, there has always been talk that some Acholis in the diaspora have been backing the rebel force.

The appointment of the LRA peace team has been seen to confirm this.

Of those appointed by rebel leader Joseph Kony only Crispus Ayena Odongo, a Kampala lawyer stays in Uganda. The rest are from London, Nairobi and the US.

On September 31, Acholi members of Parliament led by Chua County MP Livingstone Okello-Okello left for Juba on the invitation of the mediator Riek Machar. Okello-Okello said the trip was aimed at building confidence for Kony and his fighters not to abandon the talks.

When the group got to Juba they were hit by the stark realities in differences in thinking and perspective about events back home by the LRA delegates at the talks.

However, Aswa County MP Reagan Okumu believes some of the demands being made by the LRA delegates can be found at any peace negotiation.

The LRA and the government recently signed a secession of hostilities agreement. The LRA were to assemble at Owinyi-ki-Bul. They, however, failed to assemble there claiming the area had UPDF soldiers.

In the IDP camps residents are keenly following Juba events while residents want reconciliation between Kony and Museveni.

Darfur

Sudan to disarm Janjaweed militia in two months

(AFP – 30th Oct. **Khartoum**) Sudan said Monday that a plan had been set up to disarm Darfur's infamous Janjaweed — the pro-government militia accused by Washington of genocide — and all other militias within two months.

"We have put in place a plan for disarming the militias in Darfur in two months, in cooperation with the African Union," President Omar al-Beshir said in a televised speech marking the opening of the new parliamentary session.

Beshir did not say how the Janjaweed would be disarmed.

In his speech, Beshir praised the African Union and said that the peace deal signed earlier this month in Asmara with a coalition of eastern rebels was evidence that Sudan needed no western assistance.

"The Asmara agreement has given evidence that the Sudanese alone can solve their differences," he said.

[A translation of the full text of the President of the Republic's speech before parliament is issued in the Khartoum Monitor].

Abuja holdout groups welcome appointment of National Security and Intelligence chief to contact them

AlRai AlAam: Abuja holdout groups have welcomed the appointment of National Security and Intelligence chief Salah Abdalla to contact them.

Isam Eldin elHaj, the SLM-non signatory faction, said we have no objection to contact him but we call first of all for the release of Darfur prisoners including Abu Algasim Ahmed Abu Algasim.

Mahjoub Hussein (SLM spokesman) leads move to isolate leader Minnawi

Alwan: A group of SLM leaders are actively moving inside and outside Sudan and among the movement's officers and soldiers to isolate leader Minnawi.

SLM spokesman Mahjoub Hussein is said to be at the head of this group. They claim that Minnawi is unable to face the National Congress Party's deliberate movements to hinder the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and could not check NRF movements towards the SLA positions.

Chadian army under heaviest rebels pressure Sudan says Chad supporting Darfur rebels

(AFP – 30th Oct. N'Djamena) After renewed heavy fighting in Chad, both President Idriss Deby Itno's troops and rebels have claimed a victory, but observers said Monday the government forces were under pressure with big losses.

Defence Minister Bichara Issa Djadallah said the army killed about 100 rebels and lost four men during fighting Sunday near the Sudanese border. He also acknowledged the loss of a senior general staff officer in the battle.

However, a newly merged rebel front claimed it had trapped and killed 215 government soldiers at the cost of 15 men.

The government's statement said the deputy chief of army staff, General Moussa Sougui, had died in the fighting, which was clearly a blow to the regime after the death in March of General Abakar Youssouf Itno, the army commander and nephew of the president.

Deby's government, which has French support, also accused Sudan of backing an assault on the capital in April by the United Front for Change, which is a part of the new rebel front.

CAR accuses Sudan of supporting rebel groups ; SAF rebuffs

(AP/AFP – 30th Oct. Bangui) The Central African Republic (CAR) accused neighbor Sudan of "barbarous aggression" Monday, after a recently formed rebel group captured the northern city of Birao, near the Sudanese border.

"Presidential spokesman Cyriaque Gonda said on national radio that "unidentified assailants" from the western Sudanese region of Darfur had carried out the attack.

"The government and the Centrafrican people ... strongly condemn this barbarous aggression which cannot be justified," he said.

Gonda said Sudan was responsible for "repeated violations" of the border and called on the international community to help restore the "territorial integrity" of CAR by sending UN peacekeepers to Darfur.

CAR president, Francois Bozize, urged President Jacques Chirac on the sidelines of the International Organization of Francophonie summit held in Bucharest, at the end of September to give him logistical assistance to stop Sudan supported Central African rebels who destabilize his regime.

IDP arrivals in Darfur rise to 150,000

Khartoum Monitor: The number of new arrivals of displaced persons in camps in Darfur rose to 150,000 reported Mariam Mohamed Ahmed who works for the UN's Maternity and childhood Commission.

She added that renewed fighting in south Darfur led to the displacement of 4000 persons this month and that if fighting continues thousands more will be forced to leave their villages.

The Government and the UN must find a middle ground by providing protection and security to the Internally Displaced Persons while at the same time preserving the sovereignty of the government, she added. Khartoum Monitor