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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/Agencies

UN chief's embarrassing moments at Khartoum airport

(Sudan Tribune.Com) U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and his entourage faced a chaotic situation at Khartoum airport during his visit to Sudan last week.

Salah Al-Maleeh, a reporter with the daily Al-Sudani newspaper, reported that before Ban Ki-Moon traveled to Juba, capital of South Sudan, he was due to hold a press conference at Khartoum airport upon his request, to brief reporters on his meeting with the Sudanese president Omar Al-Bashir.

Reporters and cameramen filled the area around the VIP lounge at the airport waiting for the UN chief to come out.

However Ali Karti, Sudanese Minister of State at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, who was the ranking Sudanese official at the airport, asked the protocol officer to clear the area from reporters.

But the reporters supported by UN officers, refused to comply with Karti's orders. The protocol officer then notified Karti and came back to tell reporters that Ban Ki-Moon will be moved to a different lounge and will then proceed immediately to the plane.

UN officers assured reporters that Ban Ki-Moon will hold the press conference as planned despite Sudanese officials' refusal. The UN officers then called members of UN leader's delegation by cell phone to confirm the press conference.

Around five minutes later Ban Ki-Moon was seen walking towards the reporters and then he tried to open the door separating him from the press with no success. The UN Chief stood in front of the door for about a minute while his security detail attempted to unlock the door.

Later the protocol officer came and unlocked the door and the UN chief held his press conference in which he announced Sudan's acceptance to release Sudan Liberation Army Humanitarian Coordinator Suleiman Jamous.

Ki-Moon forms team to make Libya talks success

(AlAyam) The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon has announced the formation of a high level joint team consisting of Libya, UN and the AU for the promotion of a successful peace talks.

Moon said he proposed to the Libyan Leader Moamer Al-Gadaffi the team should include Special UN and AU Envoys to Sudan as well as the Libyan African Affairs Minister Abdul Salam Al-Tiraiki.

He added that Gadaffi assured his full support to the deployment of European Union troops in Chad, which is hosting influx of refugees from Darfur.

Moon noted that he was satisfied with progress made so far in Darfur peace process, maintaining that it was premature to speak about tangible results.

He urged Sudan, Egypt, Eritrea, and Chad to work closely with the UN to formulate a roadmap prior to a high level, devoted for this purpose in September, in New York. Meanwhile, President Omer Al-Bashir briefed the Council of Ministers on the outcome of UN Chief's visit to Sudan.

State Foreign Minister Al-Samani Al-Wasila told the Cabinet meeting Moon was familiarized with the situations in Darfur States and expressed his satisfaction over the preparations of the government to host the hybrid operation.

He said that Moon called on peace non-signatory factions to sit for peace talks to bring about durable and lasting peace in Darfur indicating that Moon assured that Darfur crisis was related to the lack of development.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

State minister briefs cabinet on results of UN chief's visit to Sudan

(Suna website) In a meeting chaired by President al-Bashir the Council of Ministers Sunday [9 September] got acquainted with outcome of the visit of the UN SG to the country last week.

The state minister at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Al-Samani Al-Wasilla, said that in a report to the council Sunday that the UN chief during his visit discussed the situation in Darfur and expressed his satisfaction over arrangements adopted by the government for the hybrid [force], calling upon the international community to fulfill its commitments toward realization of peace in Darfur and convincing the non signatory parties of Darfur Peace Agreement to participate in the coming negotiations for reaching a comprehensive political solution for Darfur issue.

Al-Wasila indicated Ban Ki-moon affirmed during his meetings with officials in Sudan that Darfur problem was the cause of lack of development. *BBC Mon*

CRC continues contacts with political forces on elections law

(Alwan) Chairperson of Liaison Committee with non-participating of the political parties at the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) Dr. Hussein Abusalih declared that the committee would continue its meeting with the political forces in a bid to probe their view points on the way of applying the list percentage in the comparative representation system

He said that he met representatives of the Umma, Communist and Ba'ath political parties and discuss with them their visions as regards the application of the comparative representation system to pave the way for the formulation of the election law.

He added that the committee received written visions on the election law from these political forces.

Diary of Sudan jailed opposition leader reveals ordeal

(Sudan Tribune.Com) The Sudanese security and intelligence services have failed to establish any evidence linking a Sudanese opposition leader to an alleged coup attempt thwarted last July.

Mubarak Al-Fadil, leader of the Umma Reform and Renewal opposition party, outlined in his daily diary obtained by Sudan Tribune, the endless interrogations he went through to attempting prove his involvement in the coup attempt.

The former presidential assistant was arrested mid-July along with a number of retired army generals, including retired general Mohamed Ali Hamid, who worked as deputy director of security in the late eighties, as well as former minister of tourism, Abdel-Jalil al-Basha.

Mahmoud Hassanein, prominent opposition leader from the Unionist Democratic Party of Mohamed Osman al-Mirghani was also arrested. Hassanein is known for his sharp criticism of the ruling National Congress Party.

According to the diary Sudan's security accused Al-Fadil of trying to get the support of the US administration, Libya and Egypt for the coup. Al-Fadil was accused by interrogators of communicating the attempt to a visiting US professor who was also a former ambassador.

Throughout the interrogations no solid proof was produced nor was a confession from the other alleged coup plotters obtained.

Council of Ministers calls on DPA-non- signatories to sit for negotiations

(Rai AlShaab) The Council of Ministers, Sunday on Darfur peace-non signatories to immediately join peace talks to halt bloodshed in Darfur and reach comprehensive and lasting solution to Darfur issues.

He called on the international community to fulfill its commitment towards the financial support pledged by donor countries to boost the hybrid operation, scheduled to be deployed at the end of this year.

North DDR arranges to demobilize and reintegrate 45,000 fighters

(Allintibaha) The Northern Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-integration commission said that many obstacles are confronting its duties in demobilizing and re-integrating some 45,000 persons.

Northern DDR Commissioner Dr. Sulaf Eddin Salih said that the commission has not realized its goals towards its target groups, adding that the commission plan for the current year aims to demobilize 45,000 apart of Darfur States.

Salih disclosed that the commission was facing difficulties represented in the psychological effects emanated from the long period of 50-year civil war as well as the absence of previous experiments.

He reiterated the weak response of the international community to back the demobilization and re-integration process in the country. Salih pinpointed that the commission was planning to demobilize and re-integrate next Nov. 1,300 fighters out of 3,000 of the East Front recent arrival fighters.

Security sources accuse SPLM of rumors on assassination of Kiir

(Alltibaba) An informed security sources Sunday accused, what it described as “influential SPLM Leaderships of rumoring the assassination of First Vice-President Silva Kiir justifying their accusation on the presence of acute differences pertinent to the anticipated reshuffle of the SPLM’s Federal and State Ministers.

Meanwhile, the SPLM rejected the rumor as “baseless” confirming its consistence and without pointing out to any party of propagating this rumor.

The sources attributed the source of this rumor to SPLM members in a bid to disguise the differences among the SPLM’s leaderships saying the ministerial reshuffle determined by Kiir to be carried out shortly and the intention of Kiir to nominate Yasir Arman as SPLM’s Secretary –General for the Northern Sector, which was rejected by a lot of SPLM’s members refueled the rumor.

In a related development, Kiir will address today the South Legislative Assembly in which he mention important issues of corruption and the Ministerial reshuffle.

On the other hand, SPLM Leader Malik Agar asserted that the SPLM handed over its nominees of the ministerial portfolios to President Albashir saying that the SPLM would take necessary measures to get hold of Kiirs’s assassination rumor.

Foreign Minister down plays rumor of his firing from his post

(AlAyam) Foreign Minister Dr. Lam Akol has down played rumor circulated of his firing from his ministerial portfolio saying that if it occurs, law of life requires such change.

Akol, who was speaking to the Sudanese community in Masagat, Oman, said that the CPA was considered as the basis for the governance and the democratic transformation in Sudan expressing his satisfaction over the implementation of the CPA process despite the slowness accompanied some dossiers.

Commenting on the differences parts of the dossiers, Akol indicated that these dossiers included the withdrawal of the military troops South and North and the Abyei protocol.

He emphasized that Darfur crisis was the problem of the whole Sudan and not the responsibility of the NCP.

Political forces reject excluding Darfur from census

(*AlRai AlAam*) The opposition political forces have unanimously rejected excluding Darfur States from the national population census, scheduled to take place next Nov. according to the Director of the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) Prof. Awad Hag Ali.

Prof. Ali stressed that all preparations pertinent to the field work of carrying out the census were ready in the various Northern States except Darfur States.

While leading figure of the Popular Congress Party (PCP) Mohamed AlAmin Khalifa dismissed the existence of any barrier for conducting the census in Darfur states.

Democratic Unionist Party member Ali Alsyed said that conducting the census in Darfur was possible pending the availability of the strong desire proposing delay of the scheduled elections until the conducting of the census in Darfur.

Communist Party member Suleiman Hamid noted that excluding Darfur from the census would send negative signals on the instability situation in the region.

Umma Party member Sara Nougdallah stressed that negligence of conducting the census in Darfur states was an attempt to isolate Sudanese citizens from exercising their democratic right saying that holding of the census in Darfur goes in line with the realization of comprehensive peace in the region.

Commission demands evacuation of armed forces and SPLA

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Ceasefire Political Commission Demanded the evacuation of both the armed forces and the SPLA from Mujlad region immediately.

The Commission's member, Director Mohamed Ahmed, said this after a joint meeting that discussed what happened in Mujlad last Thursday.

Important decisions were reached like the evacuation of armed forces and the SPLA from Mujlad and Abu-Tareq to monitor the movements.

The GoSS Interior Minister, and member of the Ceasefire Political Commission, Paul Mayom said that the SPLM abides by the implementation of this decree and that his forces will withdraw south of 1.1.1950 line within this week.

New initiative to contain crisis between the government and SPLA in Mujlad

(*Rai AlShaab*) A reliable source told *Rai AlShab* that a new initiative was introduced to contain Mujlad crisis recently arisen between SAF and SPLA with a view to radically solve the problem.

The source, who declined to be identified, revealed that the initiative provided for incorporating the SPLA's force to the Peace forces, commanded by Maj. AlToum AlNur Daldoum.

He said that originally the force had been part of the peace forces and afterwards it converted to the Popular Defense Forces (PDF), but, the source added, following the signing of CPA its position was not settled and it opted to join the SPLA.

The source noted that the initiative was masterminded by Leaderships from Rizeigat and Miseria tribes.

SPLM's Information Secretary in Muglad area Zain Abdeen Ali Omer denied their knowledge about this initiative that have gradually incorporated in the SPLA indicating that Rizeigat and Miseria tribes were strategically linked with this area.

He expressed their readiness to leave Muglad and Aldibab areas within a week in accordance with the agreement reached to this effect. He said they were executing military commands stressing that this force was en route to training camps in Upper Nile south of 1956 borders.

Darfur

Save Darfur Coalition's efforts may be outdated: US envoy

(Sudan Tribune.Com) Activist groups trying to force mutual-fund companies - including Boston's Fidelity Investments - to divest from firms with ties to the Sudanese government may be disrupting sensitive talks under way to bring peace to the war-torn country, says President Bush's special envoy to Sudan.

Andrew Natsios, Bush's envoy and a veteran political player in Massachusetts, praised groups such as the Save Darfur Coalition for being "well intentioned" and helping to "publicize" the suffering of millions of people in Sudan's southern region of Darfur.

Darfur has been racked for years by war and what many call open genocide by the Arab-dominated Sudanese government against the region's black African population.

But Natsios, the former head of the U.S. Agency for International Development and ex-chairman of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, said activists' efforts were "more useful eight to 12 months ago" but are perhaps outdated today. The Sudanese government has "very reluctantly" agreed to allow more United Nations peace-keeping troops in Darfur, following massive international pressure on the leaders in Khartoum, Natsios said.

He suggested calls to pressure mutual-fund companies, including efforts to push Fidelity into divesting from PetroChina, could disrupt ongoing delicate talks that are finally starting to work. China, considered a supporter of the Khartoum government, has been active in recent talks, he noted.

He added the Bush administration also opposes the divestment campaign because it "politicizes financial markets." But local activists say they have every intention of pressing ahead with their divestment efforts.

Cohen's group, previously known as Fidelity out of Sudan, has waged a media campaign against the Boston mutual-fund giant for its investments in PetroChina. Though Fidelity has reduced some of its PetroChina holdings, it still owns company shares, infuriating activists. Cohen said he respected what Natsios is doing in Sudan.

But he said diplomats often don't like groups meddling during tense negotiations, even though privately they view activists' efforts as useful pressure points on governments.

Fidelity has said it is complying with all U.S. laws regarding Sudan, which has been targeted with some sanctions by the U.S. government. Natsios said those sanctions are working.

Clooney hopeful about 'first shot at a peace treaty' in Darfur

(Sudan Tribune.Com) US movie star George Clooney, who has used his fame to call attention to ethnic cleansing in Darfur, said Saturday he was optimistic about upcoming peace talks to end the four-year conflict.

"We're in a position right now where we actually have for the first time a shot at a peace treaty, not only with the government of Khartoum (the capital of Sudan), but with all the warring parties," said Clooney, following the North American premiere of his film "Michael Clayton" at the Toronto film festival. "There's a chance, not a very good one, but it's the first chance that we've had in a long time," he said.

"It's a tricky time right now because China is finally stepping up a little bit, we've got some real movement for the first time in two years, Ban Ki-moon went there and had a meeting with (Sudanese president Omar) el-Beshir and Beshir is going to meet with the Pope, which is a very interesting meeting."

"Even if you don't like them and you think they're unsavory, which I do, I'd rather have them sitting in a room talking," he commented.

Arman discusses with Kiir his visit out come to USA

(AlSudani) The High Command of the SPLM has decided the return of its influential member Yassir Arman to return to his position in the parliament as a chairperson of the information committee.

Earlier, First Vice-President of the Republic and President of GOSS Silva Kiir had discussed with Arman on the outcome of his visit to US, the current political situations as well as the SPLM's performance.

Following the meeting Kiir decreed the appointment of Arman as SPLM Deputy Secretary – General and responsible of SPLM's Northern Sector.

Arman also met in Juba with GOSS officials and reviewed with them the necessity of promoting the unity of the SPLM and its contribution in the democratic transformation.

Arman is supposed to hold today a press conference at Teeba Press premises dealing with the current political developments in the country.

Court acquits Minnawi`s faction of assassinating policemen

(Alwan) The court charging a group of defendants from Minnawi`s movement accused of shooting dead one police officer and two policemen acquitted five persons and passed a verdict of six months imprisonment for other four, whom the court condemned for obstructing the police duties.

The court based its verdict on the ground that the prosecution failed to submit concrete evidence consolidating their trial.

Sudan: Police, popular defence forces clash in Darfur

(Al-Sahafa) Tension prevailed in Al-Di'ain town in Southern Darfur State all day yesterday following clashes and shooting between policemen and a mutinying group of demobilized Popular Defence Forces [PDF] soldiers. Endeavors to reach an agreement with the group by a prominent [ruling] National Congress Party member Abd-al-Hamid Musa Kasha nearly failed after three of the group's members were hospitalized.

Reliable sources told Al-Sahafa that Kasha had managed to reach an agreement on Friday [7 September] with a large number of demobilized PDF soldiers, who had declared a mutiny until they receive their unpaid money. However, some mutineers clashed with the central reserve police force yesterday in Al-Di'ain town, which caused chaos in the town and led to the injury of three mutineers.

The sources further said that on the same day [yesterday] clashes occurred between the police and pro-government border guards, which resulted in the injury of one of the border guard's leaders, Ibrahim Labadu.

Mediation efforts led by Kasha and a number of political leaders succeeded in resolving the crisis and persuading the mutineers, who belong to the Rizeigat tribe, that the government would honor its pledge to them. *BBC Mon*

British official to visit Sudan 10 September for talks on Darfur, ties

(Sudanese radio) British Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN [Sir Mark Malloch-Brown] is expected to start a two-day official visit to country today [Monday 10 September].

The official spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ali Al-Sadiq in an interview with Sudan radio said the British official will hold talks with government officials dealing with bilateral ties and ways of strengthening them.

The official will also discuss with Sudanese officials developments in Darfur in addition to regional and international issues of common concern. *BBC Mon*

Ex-Darfur rebel faction resolves to drop word "army" from its name

(Al-Khartoum) The SLM-Minawi has accepted the request made by the political organization's general registrar to drop the word "Army" from the new name of the

movement and to declare its progression to a new stage which is the stage of moving from military action to political action. In a meeting yesterday, the SLM looked into the decisions of the SLM's Revolutionary Council which was convened in Al-Fashir recently.

In the same context, a joint committee was formed between the AU and the SLM to follow up for a one-month period, on the dossier on implementation of the agreement, before reporting to the leadership commission. The movement admitted there was political stagnation in the past period following the coming of the movement's leader to Khartoum. It was recommended that efforts must be exerted in the political domain to prepare for the next elections. *BBC Mon*

GoSS

Sudan's Salva Kiir denies rumors of his killing, addresses citizens in Juba

(Sudan Tribune.Com, AlSudani) The president of southern Sudan appeared on state television Sunday to dispel rumors that he was killed in Juba earlier in the day.

Salva Kiir, who is also vice president in the coalition government that rules both northern and southern Sudan, accused those who spread the rumor of being "the real enemies of peace in Sudan."

Rumors circulated in Khartoum Sunday morning alleged that Kiir was killed as his helicopter was shot down by troops of the Sudanese Armed Forces loyal to the Khartoum government.

The official news agency SUNA reported that Kiir participated in a religious pray ceremony in Juba, southern Sudan, on Sunday afternoon.

Drive for boosting investment in South Sudan

(Khartoum Monitor) State Minister for Finance and National Economy Dr. Ahmed Mahjoub Ahmed asserted government commitment to the rehabilitation of infrastructure in South Sudan. The president declared the allocation of \$100 million to rehabilitate the infrastructure in South Sudan and to that effect, a committee has been formed to carry out the rehabilitation.

Dr. Mahjoub in a press conference yesterday said 22 health centre are being built in South Sudan. This came in the drive for involving the private sector in the development of Sudan and cooperation between it and the Government of South Sudan.

The forum highlighted that investment in that respect aims to highlight the investment opportunities in south Sudan and shed light on challenges and obstacles ahead.

Armed group reportedly operating in south-central Sudanese oil field

(Al-Watan) An armed group affiliated to Shahama Movement which is led by Babu Ahmad Ahmad has taken over a vehicle of one of the petroleum companies in Wadi

al-Nimir area, 14 kilometers from Hijlij [in southern Kordofan], assaulting those on board the vehicle and dragging them out. The group took the vehicle into an unknown place.

An informed source from Al-Mujlad said in statement to Al-Watan yesterday that he was informed that the armed group contained eight people and six of them were holding Kalashnikovs guns. The group beat the people who were boarding the car with sticks and took the car which belongs to Dafrah oil block and run away. *BBC Mon*

SPLM to hold congress to discuss marginalized people issues

(*Al Ayam*) The SPLM has set up a committee to prepare for the convocation of a general congress to the marginalized citizens next year.

SPLM Deputy Secretary-General Malik Agar said that the committee was concerned with preparation of convening this conference and set the specific date and venue of the congress.

He told a press conference on Sunday the committee set up by the SPLM and the NCP to investigate into violations of the constitution and human rights would raise its report to the Political Committee next Saturday.

He emphasized that dialogue with the NCP was continuing to solve pending issues hindering the implementation of the CPA admitting that most of the disputed issues had been overcome.