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UNMIS
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(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

➤ **UNMIS/ United Nations**

- Many elements of South Sudan peace deal unfulfilled - Annan
- United Nations' Jan Egeland says foreign organizations are on the brink of leaving Darfur
- United Nations adopts emergency educational package for children in conflict areas
- Journalists say Sudan prevents media support for UN resolution

➤ **United Nations/ AU-UN transition debate**

- Sudan government critical of Secretary-General Anna's report
- African Union Peace and Security Council to hold emergency meeting
- Bashir, Mirghani, el-Mahdi, Turabi support initiative by prominent persons
- Sudan government rejects preconditions for normalization of relations with US
- UN's Annan spearheading conspiracy against Sudan - lawmaker

➤ **CPA**

- SPLA bars deputy governor of South Korfofan from entering Jullud

➤ **GoNU**

- Qaeda 'leader' claims beheading of Sudan editor
- Reactions to the statement attributed to AlQaeda:
- New Sudanese currency to enter circulation in northern Sudan

➤ **Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement**

- EU envoy reports continued government bombing of Darfur villages

HIGHLIGHTS:

UNMIS/ United Nations

Many elements of South Sudan peace deal unfulfilled - Annan

(AP/ST – 11th Sept. UN) Many of the most important promises made under a peace deal that ended a 21-year civil war in Sudan's south have not been met, threatening to plunge the long-suffering region back into violence, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a report Tuesday.

The dire assessment of the situation in Sudan's south was that the Khartoum-based government and the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army, which signed the deal with great fanfare in January 2005, have fallen well behind on plans for elections and are not sharing power and wealth as called for.

He says that "Disappointingly, implementation of the (Comprehensive Peace Agreement) provisions appears to be selective."

There has also been little progress in establishing human rights commissions and disarming fighters. Sudan's parliament has shown little inclination to pass a raft of legislation necessary for the peace deal to be carried out fully. Nonetheless, Annan recommended that the U.N. Security Council extend the mandate of the U.N. Mission in Sudan, or UNMIS, which was set up to monitor and support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Throughout the 14-page report, Annan criticized Sudan's government for its behavior toward civilians and the peacekeeping force.

United Nations' Jan Egeland says foreign organizations are on the brink of leaving Darfur

Speaking at a press conference in Nairobi yesterday, the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator has warned of the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Darfur and said that many foreign agencies operating in that area are about to leave Darfur, reports *AlRai AlAam*.

Egeland said that the Sudan government must take out obstacles to the deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur.

United Nations adopts emergency educational package for children in conflict areas

Assistance Secretary General for Humanitarian affairs Jan Egeland announced the adoption of an emergency educational package for children in areas of conflict, *AlAdhwa* reports.

The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator said that millions of children have been affected by conflict worldwide and that not much has been done for such children in terms of education, health and security.

Egeland said the conditions of such children in Uganda, Colombia and Sudan are unacceptable and must not be left to continue.

Meanwhile speaking at a conference on education yesterday, the regional director for Save the Children (Sweden) has called on the international community and governments to provide funds for the education of the estimated 43 million children worldwide – 3 million of whom are in the Sudan alone.

The organisation's regional director called on the Sudan government to meet its obligations to the education budget and warned that agencies may at any time withdraw their education assistance.

Journalists say Sudan prevents media support for UN resolution

(*AFP/ST* – 11th Sept. **Khrt.**) Sudanese journalists accused the government Tuesday of imposing press restrictions in order to prevent media support for a UN resolution which calls for the deployment of UN troops in the country.

Several newspaper editors complained of having had newspaper articles confiscated under the pretext of "protecting journalists" following the killing of a prominent Islamist journalist last week.

"They came to the newspaper at 11:00 last night and collected a number of news reports, including my column which was a commentary on a recent statement by senior ruling National Congress Party Nafie Ali Nafie on his relationship with Vice President Ali Osman Taha," Al-Sahafa daily's editing adviser Haider al-Mikashfy said.

But authorities "are likely looking for reports or materials supporting Resolution 1706," he said.

The deputy editor-in-chief of Al-Sudani daily newspaper, Nouredine Medani, said that security officials visited his newspaper's offices Monday night and collected reports and columns connected with recent demonstrations and trials in the country.

Medani said the authorities used last week's killing of prominent Sudanese journalist Mohamed Taha Mohamed Ahmed as a pretext for the restrictions saying it was "for the protection of journalists," he said.

"They alleged that they are doing this for our protection but it is only a return to the old censorship," he said.

Executives of Al-Ayam daily newspaper also complained that several portions of their newspaper were cut out Monday night.

Yassir Arman, Deputy Secretary General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), a former rebel group which signed a peace deal with Khartoum in January 2005 to end a bitter north-south war, strongly denounced the restrictions.

"The recent return of censorship and monitoring of the newspapers and the media in general is a violation of the constitution and the bill of rights," Arman said.

"It is unacceptable and it makes democratic transformation meaningless," said the senior SPLM official.

"The free media is a mirror of the society and transparency and rule of law," Arman said.

"It is a title of the transitional period and without it the (peace deal) will be meaningless and spiritless," said Arman who threatened to quit his other role as chairman of the parliamentary information committee should the restrictions continue.

"It is almost impossible to carry out democratic change and to implement the (peace deal) without free press and media," Arman warned.

United Nations/ AU-UN transition debate

Sudan government critical of Secretary-General Anna's report

Dr. Majzoub el-Khalifa has come to the defense of Sudan's plan to improve the security situation in Darfur and told the *SMC* that there is nothing wrong with the government plan.

These statements come after the foreign ministry in Sudan announced it has received the United Nations' comments on the Sudan plan for Darfur and that Secretary-General Annan was rather critical of the plan.

The Presidential Advisor described it as an ambitious plan that comes as part of the DPA itself and assured that all parties signatories to the DPA will work towards the full implementation of the government's Darfur plan.

"There is no place for amendments of the plan but there is ample opportunity to implement the plan through all relevant DPA signatories", says el-Khalifa.

Of Secretary-General Anna's recent report to the Security Council on Darfur, the presidential advisor said that the report was based on wrong assessments and information. He said that by adopting such reports based on wrong information, the Secretary-General must have vested interests.

Dr. Khalifa called on Secretary-General Annan to consider the fact that there is some improvement in the situation in the region and that the situation is now better than before. He said that the facts on the ground prove that the reports the United Nations Secretariat is fed with lies in the reports on the situation in Darfur.

He further pointed out that the Secretary-General, through his last report before the Security Council, sought to draw some legitimacy for the deployment of United Nations forces to Darfur and this is something that the Sudan government rejects.

African Union Peace and Security Council to hold emergency meeting

(*AlAyaam* 13th Sept. **Khrt**) The AU peace and Security Council is to hold an emergency meeting in Addis Ababa at the request of the Sudan government after the drafting of the UNSC resolution about the UN troops to Darfur.

On the other hand, the Egyptian Foreign minister has called upon the conflicting parties in Darfur to discuss and resolve their differences within a diplomatic framework.

Pointing out that he does not believe the UNSC could impose a resolution on the Sudan government.

Bashir, Mirghani, el-Mahdi, Turabi support initiative by prominent persons

An initiative by a group of prominent persons seeking to avert a confrontation between the Sudan and the international community on the issue of the deployment of United Nations troops to Darfur has been blessed by President Bashir and the leaders of the Umma and Popular Congress parties.

AlSahafa has learnt from the rapporteur of the committee that they have held a series of meeting during which draft solutions that incorporate the international dimensions created by the situation and that stresses that the issue can best be resolved through improving the situation on the ground in Darfur.

The committee, says Mohamed Saeed el-Khalifa the rapporteur, also underlined in its draft that the political process be granted priority by bringing on board the holdout groups. The committee is also holding consultations with the opposition parties to find means to address their reservations towards the DPA and find acceptable solutions to the crisis.

He said the committee sees the situation within the country as a “safety valve” against international pressure and that this may even bring the international community to retracting its resolutions on Sudan.

The rapporteur says support for the initiative has come from the President of the Republic, Umma’s Sadiq el-Mahdi, the PCP’s Dr. Turabi and Ahmed el-Mirghani, the deputy head of the DUP.

Sudan government rejects preconditions for normalization of relations with US

Sudan’s foreign ministry said it rejects the imposition of preconditions for normalization of relations with US, reports *AlAdhwaa*.

With reference to the recent statements by US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice during which she pegged normalization of relations between the US and Sudan to the latter’s cooperation on the issue of deployment of a United Nations force in Darfur.

Ambassador Fadlallah al-Hadi, spokesman for the Sudanese foreign ministry, said relations between Sudan and the US is a process that taps on the will of two sides and that this will should not be dictated or have preconditions attached.

UN’s Annan spearheading conspiracy against Sudan - lawmaker

(*AP/ST* – 12th Sept. **Khrt.**) A senior Sudanese lawmaker Tuesday accused U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan of spearheading a conspiracy against the country over a plan to deploy U.N. peacekeepers in the war-torn Darfur region.

The U.S. is leading the conspiracy, which "began as a political campaign in the U.N. and is now taking the form of a military intervention," Ismail Haj Mussa, a senior member of the Sudanese Parliament, told the official Radio Omdurman

Mussa Tuesday also accused Annan of placing the U.N. at the disposal of the U.S.

"Thanks to Kofi Annan, there is no longer an independent U.N. but only a section within the American State Department," Mussa said.

CPA

SPLA bars deputy governor of South Kordofan from entering Jullud

(*Allntibaha* 12th Sept. **Khrt.**) An armed group of SPLA soldiers barred yesterday the deputy governor of South Kordofan from entering Jullud – the No. 2 SPLA base in the region after Kauda.

The SPLA group that numbered about 50 refused to allow access to the deputy governor despite high level pleas and the deputy governor had to turn back to avoid a confrontation.

The deputy governor condemned the incident and pointed out that his intended visit was arranged through the SPLM and the government.

GoNU

Qaeda 'leader' claims beheading of Sudan editor

A man purporting to lead an African branch of al Qaeda claimed responsibility on Tuesday for the beheading of a Sudanese newspaper editor who was found dead last week, reports Reuters.

The man, in a statement distributed to Sudanese newspapers, called editor Mohamed Taha a "dog of dogs from the ruling party", and accused him of insulting the prophet Mohammad.

The statement was signed by Abu Hafs al-Sudani, who said he was the leader of al Qaeda in Sudan and Africa.

"Three individuals from this organisation undertook this operation ... and they are now outside Sudan," said the statement, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters.

Reactions to the statement attributed to AlQaeda:

Most newspapers carry reports that the state security apparatus does not rule out a foreign involvement in the assassination of the newspaper editor.

Reports say the head of operations of the security and intelligence organ in Sudan told reporters yesterday that the assassination was organised but investigations are still ongoing. He said that the media sometimes issues stories that may adversely affect the course of the investigations and asked the media to let the security organs carry out their investigations.

AlRai AlAam reports that the Minister of Interior who was addressing a graduation ceremony in Karrari yesterday for Special Security Police (trained in close protection, counter-terrorism, as snipers, explosives, poison weapons and handling aircraft hijacks) said that the Sudan is facing a threat of organised acts of terrorism.

He said that Zionists, extreme right-wing and neo-conservatives are funding operations targeting Sudan peace and security in a bid to dismantle the country and gain a hold on its resources.

Sudanese politicians cast doubt on the claim, which would be the first act by Al Qaeda in Africa's largest country. Bin Laden and his deputy have both called for their followers to take up arms in Sudan's violent Darfur forces if U.N. forces deploy there.

Reports *SudanTribune.com*, ***"If the statement is true I believe the name of Al Qaeda is being used to achieve other purposes," said Yasser Arman***, a senior member of the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement. "Mohamed Taha himself wasn't propagating against Al Qaeda."

Mubarak al-Fadil, leader of the opposition Umma breakaway party, said the statement aimed to deflect attention away from what was a home-grown operation.

"This want to detract people's minds outside the areas people should look in," he said, adding the government wanted to blame foreign forces when Sudanese extremists were more likely to be responsible.

Meanwhile rumours have it in Khartoum that people have been receiving untraceable SMS messages listing 23 Sudanese intellectuals as next on the assassination list, *alarabiya.net* reports.

New Sudanese currency to enter circulation in northern Sudan

Deputy Governor of Sudan Bank Mr. Badr Eden Mahmoud announced that the new Sudanese currency "the pound" will enter circulation in northern Sudan in the beginning of the New Year and in the next December in the South, reports *AlAyaam*.

He added that printing of the new currency is underway.

Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement

EU envoy reports continued government bombing of Darfur villages

EU Special Representative to Sudan Mr. Pekka Haavisto, speaking at a press conference on his arrival from Darfur, said the European Union was continuing efforts to bring all the parties on board the Darfur Peace Agreement signed last May 5th in Abuja, *Alintibaha* reports.

Addressing journalist at the EU embassy last night, Haavisto said with respect to the Darfur crisis, 'As far as we are concerned what's happening on the ground is not acceptable. New Sudan Government aerial attacks on the villages and killing of innocent civilian and destruction are unacceptable'

However, the EU envoy noted that there are also attacks from non-signatories to the DPA.