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Highlights

SPLA begins arm collection in Juba

Local dailies report SPLA troops began a dawn operation yesterday to confiscate illegal arms. According to **Al-Intibaha**, Juba was gripped by panic as SPLA troops raided houses searching for arms, sealing routes leading in and out of the city and the NCP office was also not spared.

Sudan Tribune website 9/9/09 reported thousands of illegally and privately owned weapons including RPGs, PKMs, Kalashnikovs and pistols were retrieved in the town's residential areas. Among them also included 12.7 anti-aircraft missiles privately owned by individuals.

The minister of Internal Affairs, Gier chuang Aluong, said the operation was aimed at freeing the town from armed criminal activities.

An official from the ministry of information who did not want to be named said advisory messages were sent out on Monday to heads of departments in various ministries to inform their staff of the search.

The same message was extended to all heads of the United Nations agencies including UNMIS to advise their personnel living in and around Juba town of the conduct of this exercise so that they stay in their residences until further notice.

A ring leader of a criminal gang group that was believed to be responsible for a series of killings in the town was also arrested on Monday. He was identified by the authorities as a former member of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF). This successful operation to get rid of the weapons in the town also came two days before this Friday's expected conference of dozens of political parties in Juba. Authorities said the disarmament exercise will extend to all the other areas and states in the region.

US envoy returns to Sudan amid activists' criticism

AP 9/9/09 - President Barack Obama's envoy to Sudan launched a new mission Wednesday to overcome obstacles in the country's fragile north-south peace deal, as activists sharply criticized U.S. policies as too lenient on the Khartoum government.

U.S. envoy Scott Gration began his fifth visit to Sudan Wednesday in the south's capital, Juba, saying he would try to find "a path forward on the two remaining unresolved sticking points for full implementation."

"These are fundamental issues that must be resolved soon," he said.

The peace deal created an autonomous southern region _ now headed by former rebels _ and incorporated southerners into a national unity government in the capital Khartoum. It also provides for sharing oil wealth, a key factor in the civil war. Most of Sudan's oil reserves are concentrated in the south.

Southerners have complained that the north is holding out oil funds. The north is also highly wary over the 2011 referendum. Most observers say southerners are disillusioned with unity and are likely to vote for independence.

The Obama administration says it has been formulating its policy on Sudan, but it has yet to firmly announce it. This summer, Gration suggested easing sanctions against the Sudanese government, causing an outcry from southerners, Darfurians and their supporters who fear Washington is easing pressure on Khartoum to fulfill its commitments.

An umbrella group of Sudan activists in the U.S. warned in a letter to the Obama administration

Wednesday that the US is allowing the Khartoum government to renegotiate the terms of the peace agreement. It said the leeway given the north could endanger the north-south deal and worsen Sudan's other main internal conflict _ fighting in the western region of Darfur.

"President Obama must be unequivocal in publicly supporting the strict implementation of the (peace deal)" and strongly condemn alleged northern support for militias blamed for recent violence in the south, said the letter from the group, led by the Washington-based Enough Project, the top Sudan advocacy group in the U.S.

"The (northern ruling party) is cleverly exploiting the U.S. willingness to enter into an open-ended dialogue," the letter said. "If left unchecked, (its) behavior will trigger a return to war in the South and make it all the more difficult to resolve the still simmering crisis in Darfur."

John Prendergast, a leading Sudan activist and co-founder of Enough, said the north was trying to delay implementation of the deal and its "strategic objective is to never hold the referendum."

"If the referendum is not held on time, there will be a return to war," said Prendergast, who was an adviser to former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The letter also warned that the north was fueling a recent upsurge of militia violence in the south, turning its attention from Darfur, where there has been a reduction in violence in recent months.

Gration will also travel to Darfur to visit refugee camps, view humanitarian efforts and meet with Darfur women leaders to discuss programs aimed at addressing sexual violence and rape.

US eases sanctions on parts of Sudan

Sudan Tribune website 9/9/09 - The US department of Treasury published a new ruling today relaxing sanctions on parts of Sudan with regards to certain items.

The areas included in today's ruling were already exempt from the comprehensive sanctions imposed by the US since 1997 for humanitarian reasons. However, the designated regions are still covered by sanctions on any dealings that involve the Government of Sudan or the petroleum industry.

In 2006, the US treasury defined the exempted regions to comprise Southern Sudan, Southern Kordofan/Nuba Mountains State, Blue Nile State, Abyei, Darfur, and marginalized areas in and around Khartoum.

Federal Cabinet to discuss National Security Law tomorrow

SMC 9/9/09 Federal cabinet will discuss tomorrow the national security law. Cabinet secretary General Omar Mohammed Salih told SMC that the law would be presented to Cabinet by minister of Justice Abdel Basit Sabdarat.

DDR North and South committees open joint office in Abyei

Akhir Lahza reports the National DDR Coordination Council has opened an office for the DDR-North and DDR-South committees in the Abyei Area. The event followed a recent visit to the Area by a delegation comprised of the State Minister for International Cooperation (who is a member of the DDR Coordination Council) and representatives of the north and south DDR committees.

Authorities in Darfur identify kidnappers of UNAMID workers

Sudanese Media Centre 9/9/09 - The Western Darfur State authorities have determined the identities and the names of the kidnappers of UNAMID workers and the state's government has accomplished 80 per cent of the task to release the kidnapped workers with the full support of

local administration.

In a statement to SMC, the commissioner of Zalanji Locality who is the head of area security committee, Col Police Yahya Ali, affirmed that the state's government was committed not to pay the ransom which was demanded by the kidnappers even though they had lowered it from 10 billion [Sudanese] pounds to 500 pounds. This followed his meeting with the head of the mission, its deputy head for administration, its counsel and spokesman.

Hamas's Mishaal lauds Sudanese support for Palestinian cause

Sudanese Radio 9/9/09 - President Bashir met yesterday with Hamas political bureau chief Khalid Mishaal who said that the meeting came as a result of continuation of ties and consultation with the Sudanese leadership on the development of the Palestinian issue. Mishaal lauded the Sudanese supportive role for the Palestinian cause and pursuit of Palestinian reconciliation. He said he had updated President Al-Bashir about Palestinian reconciliation efforts being mediated by Egypt.

Kenya, Sudan resolve border dispute

The Standard 9/9/09 - Southern Sudan has agreed to plans by Kenya to build immigration offices at the Nadapal border point. The agreement was reached after a high-level diplomatic meeting in Lokichoggio on Monday.

The talks also helped diffuse tension following recent attacks by suspected SPLA soldiers and raiders in Kenyan territory. "The meeting was successful because it diffused tension and the dispute along the border since last month," said a senior police officer who attended the meeting. Kenyan ministers toured the Kenya-Sudan border and held a two-hour closed door meeting with their Sudanese officials led by Maj-Gen Gier Chuang Aluong, who is also Southern Sudan's minister for internal affairs.

The meeting at Lokichoggio 748 hotel was heavily guarded. Sudan Eastern Equatorial State Deputy Governor John Echom, however, did not attend.

Sources privy to the meeting said some top officials from Sudan had taken a hard-line position on the Nadapal issue.

The crisis meeting on Monday was a follow up by the government on an agreement reached in Nairobi last month, to allow Kenya to build Immigration offices at Nadapal.

Southern Sudan Government has Immigration offices at the Nadapal border crossing. The Nadapal border point is about 25km from Lokichoggio town in Turkana West District.

Two months ago, SPLA officials restrained Kajwang' and Munyes from visiting Nadapal. The two ministers had gone to assess where immigrations offices would be built.

Lokichoggio town hosted most of Southern Sudan leaders now serving in Government during the armed conflict in their country.

DRC military commander says operations against Ugandan rebels success

Radio Okapi 9/9/09 - Three hundred and twenty-five Ugandan LRA rebels in total, have been killed, 412 weapons recovered, 80 returnee families and 517 children freed. This is the toll of the operation "Rudia" against LRA elements who refused to go to Dungu, more than 700 km north-east of Kisangani. The Dungu military operations headquarters presented the assessment to the territory administrator on Tuesday, reports radiookapi.net

One year after the start of the operation, the FARDC consider that it was a resounding success. At the beginning of the military operations known as "Rudia" in September 2008, the LRA was believed to be 1,200, including 500 fighters, said the commander of the operational area of

Dungu, Colonel Mundos Muhindo.

The hunt was conducted by a coalition of three armies (Sudan, Uganda and Congo). Some 325 LRA fighters were killed, 17 others captured and handed over to the Ugandan army. Some 412 weapons were recovered, 80 returnee families and 517 children freed from the assailants, he said.

Ugandan army rescues 100 kidnapped children

AP 9/9/09 — An army spokesman says Ugandan forces have rescued 100 kidnapped children and young adults during an operation against a brutal Ugandan rebel group in neighboring Central African Republic.

Lt. Col. Felix Kulaigye says Ugandan forces also captured a senior commander from the Lord's Resistance Army. He says they also have killed four of the group's junior commanders since entering the country two weeks ago.

The rebels originate in northern Uganda and have fought the government for 20 years. They are notorious for using child soldiers and mutilating and raping civilians. The rebels have fled government counterattacks into neighboring countries like Sudan and Congo.

Most of those rescued by the army were Congolese villagers abducted by the rebels.

NCP Youths' Forum kicks off in Khartoum

Al-Rai Al-Aam - Addressing the NCP Youth's Forum that kicked off yesterday, VP Taha said that new measures will soon be unveiled to open up the political space. He did not elaborate on these measures. He pointed out that the preservation of the country's unity is among the greatest challenges the youths of today face.

Five injured in militia attack on SPLM offices in Unity State

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports five people were injured in a militia attack on the SPLM office in Unity State. Mayon Buth, a prominent member of the SPLM, said that citizens in Unity State clashed with militia forces loyal to Unity State Governor Taban Deng who had installed himself as the head of the SPLM office in the state and appointed new officials to the office.

Constitutional Court dismisses lawsuit against press censorship

SMC – The Constitutional Court has dismissed a lawsuit by media practitioners against National Security and Intelligence Services related to pre-print censorship. The court ruled that the government has the right to impose restrictions on freedom of expression under certain conditions. The verdict stipulates no one could imagine allowing publicity of an article calling for disrespect for religion without fear of prosecution.

Federal Ministry of the Interior and GoSS discuss assistance to SSPS

Al-Ayyam reports Interior Minister Mahmed Hamid and GoSS Vice President Riek Machar held talks in Khartoum yesterday on means to assist the Southern Sudan Police Service (SSPS) to better preserve peace and stability, provide better police services to the people and on crime prevention. The minister said that the federal police are in constant coordination with the SSPS on these issues.

SPLM demands investigation into oil revenue figures

Ajras Al-Hurriya reports "The recent reports on suspicions surrounding the oil revenue figures are just the tip of the iceberg," SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum said yesterday. Amum has called for a review of the revenue figures and said that the issue will be tabled before talks between the Parties to the CPA and US Special Envoy Scott Gration. He called for transparency

in the oil industry and said that the SPLM would also demand representation in managing the oil account.

Sudanese troops kill 11 rebels, displace civilians in Jebel Marra

Sudantribune.com 09/09/09 - Sudanese troops attacked the positions of a rebel group near Jebel Marra in Darfur killing 11 fighters and displacing thousands of civilians; a rebel spokesperson and a spokesperson for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) said today (09/09/09).

Abdal-Rahman Nimir, the SLA-Abdulwahid Spokesperson, said that government troops and militias attacked on Monday their positions in Korma and Ain Siro in North Darfur but were driven back by SLA fighters. The SLA Spokesperson said that they lost 11 men to the fighting and that he could not provide casualty figures for the government forces. He accused Chadian rebels of taking part in the attack.

Hussein Abu Sharati, a spokesperson for the IDPs, said over telephone from the area that civilians from the areas around the clash sites fled their villages and are facing bad humanitarian conditions due to rains.

"There are six thousand civilians mostly women and children who fled their villages and are now without shelter. Those who are in Korma cannot move towards the IDP camps while those displaced from Ain Siro have moved towards the mountain," he said.

Abu Sharati, regretted that UNAMID has remained silent over these attacks that targeted civilians. "I hope this would not be considered as 'low intensity' attacks," he further said.

The IDPs spokesperson was referring to a term used by the former UNAMID chief Rodolphe Adada in a report to the UN Security Council last April.

He further urged UN agencies and international aid groups to provide the needed humanitarian assistance to civilians in the affected areas.

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