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By Public Information Office

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Highlights

Main News

SPLM rejects transitional administration on Abyei, Presidency meets tomorrow

(Al-Sahafsa) The SPLM has categorically rejected a proposal submitted by the NCP to form a joint transitional administration for Abyei area, describing the issue as “propaganda, which would not de-escalate the tension.

Commenting on the NCP’s proposal, SPLM’s Deputy Secretary-General for the Northern Sector Yasir Arman said that it was a “public relations statement” and did not address the reality. “There is no agreement till now on Abyei’s boundaries to institute the administration on it”, he added.

SPLM deputy secretary general for southern Sudan Anne Itto, said efforts should be directed to the pressing humanitarian situation more than the talks over the administration, adding that there was an urgent need to relieve thousands of IDPs, whom their houses were burnt down.

She called for the withdrawal of SAF’s Brigade 31 from Abyei, pointing out to the inadequate number of the hybrid operation, which she added was lacking facilities and equipment.

Meanwhile, US Envoy Richard Williamson conducted on Saturday talks with SPLM’s top officials dealing with CPA pending issues with emphasis on Abyei, developments in Darfur as well as normalization of Sudan-US bilateral relations.

Williamson, who toured the area on yesterday, said Abyei could destroy what had been achieved since the signing of the CPA.

In the meantime, Chairman of Abyei Liberation Front Mohamed Al-Ansari said the Missyria informed the NCP-SPLM joint committee, which visited Abyei, about freezing the formation of Abyei transitional administration and organizing peaceful dialogue among local communities in the area.

However, the presidency will meet tomorrow to settle Abyei issue and overcome differences on the election bill.

US-Sudanese dialogue resumes today to discuss peace obstacles and economic sanctions, but SPLM, on other hand, stresses reaching agreement with SPLM on Abyei

(Al Ray Alaam) Economic sanctions and progress of the CPA implementation will figure prominently in the third round of talks between the Sudanese and US delegation, reported Al Ray Alaam on Sunday.

The paper said the talks, which would be co-chaired by President Assistant Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie and US Envoy Richard Williamson, would focus on the flaming situation in Abyei.

It added that the government delegation would be represented by the NCP after the SPLM pulled out of the talks, saying the negotiations could have emboldened northern soldiers to attack Abyei.

In another development, GoSS Presidential Affairs Minister Luca Biong said the fundamental obstacle was the area boundaries, adding that the NCP and the SPLM already agreed the chief administrator would be SPLM and the deputy NCP.

He noted that the administration chief was mandated to provide proposals to the head of the departments, in consultation with his deputy, reiterating that the basic dispute was over the borders of the area.

[UN/Agencies](#)

UN SC delegation arrives next Tuesday

(Alsahafa, Ray Alaam, Alsudani) The UN SC has emphasized that the three –day visit of the council’s delegation to Sudan would be devoted to adopt plans in a bid to push forward the staggering peace process in Darfur, promote peace in Southern Sudan and encourage the peace partners (NCP-SOLM) to settle Abyei crisis.

South Africa permanent Representative to the UN told a press conference on Saturday that the British Representative to UN would lead the UN SC’s delegation to Sudan, adding that the delegation would visit Darfur to inspect the IDPs camps and the Seat of UNAMID in El-Fashir.

On his part, the Head of the SC delegation said the delegation would discuss means of reviving the peace process in Darfur, the possibility of appointing a mediator to the process, reasons of Sudan’s rejection to accept offers by European countries to dispatch troops to UNAMID and addressing shortage of helicopters required by the operation.

Children held over Khartoum attack in good health

(Reuters) Some 89 children detained by Sudan on suspicion of taking part in a rebel assault on the capital Khartoum appear to be in good health and have not been mistreated, the U.N. children's agency UNICEF said on Sunday.

UNICEF said that it was able to visit the children, all boys ranging in age from 10 to 17, on Saturday at a detention centre where they are being held about 100 km (62 miles) north of Khartoum.

"They appear to be in good health and physical condition, and there is no evidence of maltreatment," UNICEF spokesman Edward Cawardine said. "We were satisfied that the children are being treated in an appropriate way."

The children were detained in the aftermath of a May 10 assault on the capital that marked the first time in decades of civil war that rebels from Sudan's peripheries brought fighting to Khartoum's doorstep.

Rebel forces from Darfur's Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) crossed hundreds of kilometres of desert and scrubland for a strike that was only halted at the bridge leading to central Khartoum, army headquarters and the presidential palace.

Hundreds of people were arrested after the attack, including the 89 children who the government said JEM had used as soldiers. JEM denied that.

Southern Sudanese leaders, rights activists and political groups have accused of Khartoum making "arbitrary" arrests and torturing suspects since the attack, which Sudan denies.

UNICEF said it was able to observe the conditions in which the children were being held, and met a small number of the boys individually.

It said it was pleased that they were being held separately from adult detainees in line with international standards on treatment of children linked to armed groups, and were supervised by unarmed guards and visited by social workers.

"Our position is that these children should be considered primarily as victims, and every effort must be made to enable their reintegration back into their communities," UNICEF Representative Ted Chaiban said in a statement.

"We must not lose sight of the fact that the real guilt in such cases lies with those who recruited these children," Chaiban said.

Most of the boys were believed to be Sudanese but some may hold Chadian nationality. Sudan cut diplomatic relations with Chad after the assault, in which Sudanese army officers have said more than 200 rebels, soldiers and civilians died.

GoNU

Sudan expels British officer from UNAMID

(Alsahafa, Alsudani)The Government has ordered the expulsion of UNAMID's Chief of Staff Patrick Davidson-Houston after six months of his appointment.

Houston, the most senior non-African staff member regretted his expulsion, saying that the Sudanese government expressed its rejection to the presence of a British general in Darfur.

He indicated that the difficulties confronting UNAMID was based on the allocation of land plots to construct the buildings as well as availability of potable water. "No soldier can be deployed without the availability of water and land", he said

However a Sudanese official, Rabie Abdel Atti denied that Sudan had no relations with UNAMID appointments

President Al-Bashir confirms holding of elections next year

(Al Ray Alaam)President Al-Bashir returned here on Saturday morning concluding an Asian tour that took him to Korea and Japan.

While there, Al-Bashir attended the launching of the Arab-Korean Society and participated in the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

Speaking in a news conference on the sideline of the conference, Al-Bashir asserted that Sudan was enjoying political preparedness represented in the signing of the CPA, which, he said, halted more than 20 years war in the South.

He added that the GoNU embodied the various political spectrums in the country, stressing that the general elections would be held next year.

Government closes down premises of Eritrean opposition

(Alsahafa)The government has decided to liquidate the Eritrean opposition in the country, close down its premises and suspend any hostile political activities against Eritrean President Asais Aforki in a move; sources close from the government said it was linked to the improving relations between the two countries.

Eritrean opposition told the paper that the concerned authorities summoned two days ago the representatives of the opposition and ordered them to suspend activities and not to exercise any hostile action from the Sudanese territories against Eritrea.

It was reported that the authorities gave the Eritrean opposition ten days to liquidate any forms of hostile action against Asmara.

The sources said the step which prompted the liquidation of the Eritrean opposition was due to acquisition of information by the government from JEM's PoWs and that one of JEM's options was to launch its attack on Khartoum from Eritrea, adding that the Eritrean regime was enthusiastic.

French envoy discusses Sudanese officials' visits to Paris

(ST)The French ambassador in Khartoum discussed today preparations of the expected visits of two Sudanese officials to Paris in June.

Christine Robichon was received today by Nafi Ali Nafi to discuss the agendas of the visits to France of the Sudanese foreign minister at the end of June and the presidential adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail.

Since the rebel attack on the Sudanese capital earlier this month Sudanese officials insinuated that France had played a role in this attack. However, Madame Robichon denied these accusations.

In order to discuss to defuse this tension in the bilateral relations already affected by the presence of a rebel leader in Paris, the French authorities invited the two Sudanese officials.

In a press statement following the meeting the French envoy said she discussed the visits of the two officials in order to enhance the dialogue between the two countries.

France intends to reiterate its neutrality in the ongoing tension with the neighboring Chad. It also expected to speak about the efforts exerted by Paris to resolve Darfur crisis.

[GoSS](#)

Egypt deports southern Sudanese refugees to Juba (ST)

(ST) Egyptian authorities forcibly repatriated Sudanese refugees and asylum seeker to their country breaching international refugee law, Human Rights Watch said yesterday.

On April 19, 2008 Egyptian authorities deported 30 Sudanese men and boys to southern Sudan. The UNHCR recognized at least 11 of them as refugees or asylum seekers. At least two of the deportees were 17-year-old children.

The rights watchdog said the deported Sudanese were in prison since last February because they had been accused of damaging cars during a fight in Cairo between two southern Sudanese gangs.

However, relatives and lawyers told Human Rights Watch that some of those detained were neither gang members nor present at the scene of the fight, and that police had apparently arrested them simply because they appeared to be Sudanese.

The rights group, which urged the Egyptian authorities to investigate the issue, explained that some of the deported refugees were neither gang members nor present at the clashes.

It also underlined they had been deported before to attend a court hearing on May 6. A judge had ordered their release on March 24 but the police appealed the decision and charged them with illegally entering the country and treating public security.

The HRW added that "Some of those apparently deported to Juba are originally from southern Sudan," but ... one man had "been born in Khartoum, in northern Sudan, and another man whose family had fled to Khartoum when he was 2 years old."

South Africa delegation visit Jonglei in a show of commitment

(ST) A South African fact finding committee make a brief visit to Jonglei capital Bor Thursday May 29 in what the chief of delegate described as "to show the commitment of our government to development of post war country of southern Sudan."

The twelve South African officials - mainly from the Department of Foreign Affairs visited prisons, judiciary, schools and health centers to evaluate provision of services and check on Jonglei good governance in a four hour tour within Bor Town.

Earlier, Gabriel Setlhoke, the chief delegate asked Jonglei top officials - including Governor Kuol Manyang Juuk who gathered at the council of ministers' hall to table the needs of the state and be allowed to interact with legal affairs.

"The idea is to identify some of the problems and engage ourselves in some solutions," he said asking "what are the needs of the state?"

In response, the governor – who was a bit stuck to arrange needs in priorities said "the state needs a lot and I don't know where to begin." He however, managed to table the needs with arms and food insecurities at both extremes.

High unemployment rate among the youth, poor law enforcement due to low number of trained staff, lack of private sectors, lack of electricity, substandard roads, annual flooding that has deny good harvest for years and poor education system were among the prime needs tabled.

The governor did not forget to mention corruption as yet another main challenger.

"Some officials are not transparent and we are dealing with this issue (corruption) seriously," he said.

Above all, Manyang Juuk warned state officials against hoping for any monetary assistant rather than corrective measures. "It is a matter of time but we shall overcome many of these problems," he said adding that any correctives steps are welcome.

The governor went ahead to outline Jonglei's un-used resources due to inadequate knowledge as; excess water, fertile-vast land, enormous cattle, and redundant human labor.

He (governor) calls on South Africa to continue with the usual support of training SPLM leaders and offering scholarship to students.

Having heard enough from the state officials, the South African delegates promised a long term solution.

"If you want to help a man to sustain his life, teach him how to fish," one of the delegates said.

After a visit to prison, judiciary and other places, the delegates hailed Jonglei for better performance especially the freedom of media, hospitality accorded to them and well managed prisons.

"Jonglei is very unique and one has to appreciate this," Gideon, a southern Sudan government representative accompanying the delegates told Sudan Tribune adding that "in Torit, they chased journalists away after a brief interaction but here we stay with you the whole day."

SPLM to Study Joint Executive Committee Proposal, Machar

(Sudan Vision)Co-chaired by Vice President Ali Osman Mohammed Taha and GoSS Vice President Riek Machar, the Six-member Joint Executive Committee yesterday resumed its meetings aimed at reaching a final settlement for Abyei problem.

Machar told Sudan Vision that the joint meeting discussed the reports of SPLM and NCP reports, pointing out that the discussions centered on avenues for resolving the crisis. He added that SPLM welcomed the proposal made by NCP regarding formation of a joint administration for Abyei and that SPLM will study the proposal.

Darfur

US Envoy says US is concerned with victims of Darfur conflict, calls for the revival of Darfur peace talks

(Alahdath,Alсахafa)US Envoy to Sudan Richard Williamson disclosed Saturday the US concern over the war victims in Darfur and particularly women and children

Williamson said during a meeting Saturday in Nayala with the government of South Darfur State that the US was monitoring with deep concern the situations of women and children who are vulnerable to daily violence in the region.

He declared his government's readiness and the US humanitarian organizations to coordinate with the Sudanese authorities to find out means of averting the innocent civilians the scourges of war.

Williamson called for activating dialogue to attain just peace, indicating the Sudanese-US dialogue's initiative which aims at contributing to the realization of peace and stability.

He demanded the government of South Darfur to provide him with actual security and humanitarian situation of the IDPs and acquaint him with results of the IDPs' repatriation.

Meanwhile, South Darfur Governor Ali Mahmoud said that his government was suffering from the growing phenomenon which was reflected in the transference of the IDPs camps to rebel camps and the attacks launched by the rebels on the relief convoys.

JEM Chief is reported wounded, says President's advisor

(Alсахafa)President Advisor Abdallah Ali Masar confirmed Saturday the presence of JEM Chief Dr.Khalil Ibrahim in Um gras area, Chad some 120 km from the Sudanese Chadian borders.

He said that Ibrahim was being treated from a serious injury inflicted him during JEM'S attack on Omdurman on May 10.

He added that Umgaras was JEM's military base in Chad, noting that despite his injury Ibrahim set up a new camp to recruit new forces after he lost most of his high ranking military commanders.

