

Sudanese rivals sign Abyei accord as new battle flares

Khartoum threatens UN flights, UN throws full military weight

AFP, United Nations

Rival north and south Sudan on Monday signed a deal to demilitarize their disputed frontier region of Abyei and let in an Ethiopian peace-keeping force, an international mediator said.

But while the UN Security Council welcomed the accord new fears were raised over heightening conflict in neighbouring South Kordofan where Khartoum's military had threatened to shoot down UN flights, according to the UN envoy to the United Nations.

Former South African president Thabo Mbeki, heading an African Union panel, brokered the accord in Addis Ababa under which the north's troops agreed to leave Abyei.

The north occupied Abyei on May 21 and tens of thousands have since fled their homes, mainly to the south.

The deal would "bring to an end this threat of violence, and actual violence in the area, so we are really hoping that Security Council will look at this agreement as early as possible and take all the necessary decisions," Mbeki told

the 15-nation body by videolink from the Ethiopian capital.

About 4,000 Ethiopian troops are expected to be moved into Abyei, which has become a near ghost region since the north's occupation.

The 4,000 Ethiopian troops that the United Nations wants to send to the disputed Sudanese region of Abyei, only region of 10,000 km, will be one of the strongest forces ever assembled for a territory of this size, officials said Monday.

The US ambassador to the United Nations said the United States would soon distribute a draft resolution to other council members giving a UN mandate to the Ethiopian deployment.

There are currently about 1,000 UN troops in Abyei, which has been occupied by north Sudan forces since May 21.

Khartoum's chief Abyei negotiator Al-Dirdiri Mohammed Ahmed told AFP the government was satisfied with Monday's agreement because it had taken care of its main concerns about the bitterly contested region, primarily that it remain in the north.



Clashes between government troops and forces loyal to South

"We think it is a sustainable solution, and that peace will prevail according to this formula," Ahmed said.

100 Yemeni troops killed in Qaeda held city

AFP, Aden

Battles raged yesterday between Yemen's army and suspected Al-Qaeda militants for control of the southern city of Zinjibar, a military official said, as the number of soldiers killed passed the 100 mark.

"We are engaged in fierce battles with terrorist elements from Al-Qaeda, leading to heavy losses on their part during the past three days," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

At least 100 soldiers have been killed since the violence in Zinjibar erupted more than three weeks ago, and 260 have been wounded, according to the official, updating an earlier toll.

Alleged Al-Qaeda militants, who have named themselves Ansar al-Sharia (Supporters of Islamic Sharia law), have been controlling most of Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan province, since late May.

Plane crash in Russia kills 44

AFP, Besovets

A Russian plane exploded into flames after crashing on a highway just short of its airport, killing 44 and leaving eight survivors fighting for their lives, officials said yesterday.

The RusAir Tupolev 134 was trying to land at its destination of Petrozavodsk in the Karelia region of northwestern Russia in bad weather but failed to make the runway and instead hurtled onto a road two kilometres away.

Investigators said it was too early to jump to conclusions but Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov said the crash appeared the result of an error by the pilot who has tried to spot the runway visually in bad weather, and failed.

The impact of the landing blasted parts of the plane and corpses of the passengers several hundred metres distant and triggered a fire that swept through the wreckage.

Severely burnt bodies, their faces unrecognisably disfigured, dismembered limbs and metal and plastic fragments were strewn at the scene, an AFP correspondent witnessed.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin expressed their condolences to the victims' families and the regional authorities announced three days of mourning.

The plane flying from Moscow's Domodedovo airport, carried 43 passengers and nine crew members.

The head of the Karelia region, Andrei Nelidov, travelled to the scene of the crash and promised the relatives of the dead compensation of \$35,711.

The head of the Petrozavodsk airport Alexei Kuzmitsky told Interfax that weather conditions around the airport at the time were "unfavourable" and Andrianova said there had been heavy fog and rain when the plane crashed.

China braces for storms amid floods

AFP, Beijing

China, already hit by torrential downpours that have left more than 260 dead or missing, braced yesterday for more rains and wind as a tropical storm neared its southern coast, weather authorities said.

The state weather bureau said the storm was brewing at sea off the coast of Guangdong and Fujian provinces, and was likely to bring strong winds and heavy rain to the region over the next two days.

Summer downpours have pummeled large swathes of south and central China this month, triggering deadly floods and landslides that have forced authorities to evacuate more than 1.6 million people.

The rains have left at least 261 people dead or missing while more than 36 million have been "affected" one way or another by the rain and flooding, the civil affairs ministry said Monday.

China is hit by torrential summer rainfalls every year.



Nato defends its air war in Libya

AFP, Brussels

Nato defended the credibility of its air war in Libya yesterday after Italy warned that civilian deaths could undermine the campaign amid growing signs of strains within the alliance.

Nato insisted it had pained to avoid civilian casualties in its three-month campaign in Libya after admitting that a bomb misfired in Tripoli at the weekend, killing nine people according to Muammar Gaddafi's regime.

"I would suggest that our reputation and credibility is unquestionable," said Wing Commander Mike Bracken, the mission's military spokesman.

"What is questionable is the Gaddafi regime's use of human shields, (and) firing missiles from mosques," Bracken told reporters from operation headquarters in Naples, Italy.

Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini warned that Nato's credibility was "at risk" following the alliance's first civilian casualties, and urged it to ensure it was not providing ammunition to Gaddafi's propaganda war.

"We cannot run the risk of killing civilians. This is not good at all," Frattini said Monday at a meeting of European foreign ministers.

British Prime Minister David Cameron butted heads with his own brass over the campaign yesterday after top officers warned that the military is overstretched.

After speaking with the heads of the army and navy, Cameron said: "They are absolutely clear that we are able to keep up this mission for as long as is necessary, and that time is on our side, not on Gaddafi's side."

In the United States, Congress has threatened to cut off funding for the mission in a showdown between President Barack Obama and lawmakers accusing him of usurping his power in ordering US action.

Tunisia court sentences Ben Ali to 35 years

AFP, Tunis

Toppled Tunisian president Zine el Abidine Ben Ali and his wife were sentenced in absentia to 35 years in prison each in a trial for misappropriating public funds on Monday.

Judge Touhami Hafi also fined the exiled leader 50 million dinars (25 million euros) and his wife Leila Trabelsi 41 million dinars on the first day of the trial.

He postponed a trial in a second case until June 30 to allow Ben Ali's lawyers more time to prepare their defence.

Ben Ali and Trabelsi were charged with embezzlement after the discovery of money and jewellery in their palace in the outskirts of Tunis.



A cloud of ashes billows from the Puyehue volcano near Osorno, 870 km south of Santiago. Thousands of air passengers were grounded yesterday as the Chilean ash cloud returned to Australia to wreak fresh havoc.

Sectarian clashes flare in Belfast

AFP, Belfast

A number of people were injured in sectarian clashes which broke out in the Northern Ireland capital of Belfast, the city's mayor said yesterday.

Gangs of masked men attacked homes in Short Strand, a Catholic enclave in Protestant east Belfast, and hurled missiles at residents and police.

"It's a tense and dangerous situation," mayor Niall O'Donnoghue said.

Television cameras captured the scenes of unrest as groups of hooded men in camouflage clothing pelted police vehicles with stones.

Ulster Unionist lawmaker Michael Copeland confirmed that several hundred people had been engaged "in hand-to-hand fighting."

The masked men were believed to be Protestants who support British rule in the province. The attack is believed to be in response to attacks on Protestant properties over the last week by Catholic republicans.

SONY make.believe

প্রতিটি এলসিডি টিভির সাথে ওয়াল হ্যাঙ্গার ও ফি ইন্সটলেশন

BIG এলসিডি টিভিতে বহুরের সেরা ছাড়! স্টক থাকা সাপেক্ষে ৩০ জুন পর্যন্ত

BRAVIA ৩২" এলসিডি টিভি মাত্র **TK.55,000**

22" KLV-22BX300 Call for Special Price	26" KLV-26BX300 Call for Special Price	32" KLV-32BX300 Now TK. 55,000	32" KLV-32EX300 Now TK. 59,900	40" KLV-40BX400 Now TK. 89,900	40" KDL-40EX400 Call for Special Price
32" KDL-32NX500 NX Series Call for Special Price	40" LED KDL-40EX600 EX Series Call for Special Price	46" LED KDL-46EX710 EX Series 14% Cash + 5% Bundle Benefit Discount	46" KDL-46NX710 Call for Special Price+ FREE Blue-ray player+ 3D Glasses+ Bunching Stand	46" KDL-46EX500 EX Series Call for Special Price	55" & 60" KDL-55/60NX810 8% Cash + 2% Bundle Benefit Discount+ FREE Blue-ray player+ 3D Glasses+ Bunching Stand

3D Micro Certified by Sony

Interest Free 365 Days Only AMEX Card Holders

9 Months for SCB Card Holders & Cash Discount Also Applicable for Card Holders

CAUTION: Market is flooded with fake LCD TV. No official warranty or any service support, if buy from any other sources except Sony-Rangs outlets.

5 YEAR WARRANTY

Sony Music System Price Range TK. 16,990 - TK. 79,900

SPECIAL DISCOUNT THE LOVE OF MUSIC

DAV-TZ130	DAV-TZ210	DAV-DZ310	DAV-DZ610	DAV-DZ810	DAV-DZ910W
DVD Hi-Fi MHC-GZR777D	DVD Hi-Fi with LCD MHC-GZR888D	DVD Hi-Fi with LCD MHC-GZR999D	Micro Hi-Fi CMT-FX200I	Micro Hi-Fi CMT-FX300I	Micro Hi-Fi CMT-MX500I

SONY RANGS. Outlets

Sonartori Tower: 9663556, Rifles Square: 8624792, Airport Road: 8118880-81, Farmgate: 9139200, Palton Mor: 9555519, 9563433, Stadium-1: 9555594, Stadium-2: 9552376, Stadium-3: 9554749, Mouchak: 9331870, 8118880-81, Lalmaia: 9118328, Mohammadpur: 8112970, Gulshan-1: 01715140222, Gulshan-2: 8811576, 9880516, Uttara: 8911971, Labag: 8629567, Bashabo: 8252018, Mirpur-1: 9010878, Mirpur-10: 9005843, Ibrahimpur: 9872038, Shawrapara: 9015324, Dhobipar: 7443236, Savar: 7742831, Narayanganj: 7632704, Comilla: 66567, Chittagong Waza Corner: 611334, Agrabad: 712810, Halishahar: 710995, Rajshahi: 774675, 775884, Khulna: 722805, 731698, Jessore: 67331, 0173-2810485, Choumuhori: 52007, Barisal: 64062, Bogra: 72444, 60066, 64904, Sylhet: 710171, 711377, Faridpur: 66111, Patna: 51613, Brahmanbaria: 52799, 01717105938, Rangpur: 0521-62141, 01199380344.

Corporate Query: 01819212467, 01199056404, 01712669655, 01815005141, 9663551-3, Ext. 117