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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

UN/ AU-UN Transition

Pronk says AbdulWahid joining the DPA will consolidate prospects for success

(*AlAyaam* – 15th May. **Khartoum**) SRSG Jan Pronk has admitted that the success of the DPA will depend on more of the armed groups, especially the AbdulWahid faction, coming on board.

The SRSG who was speaking at a meeting with representatives of Civil Society Organisations in Khartoum yesterday expressed hopes that these factions will join in and sign the DPA.

He denied having described as “cowards” those factions that did not sign the DPA. He said he used the word to describe those militia groups that did not participate in the talks while continuing to kill innocent and unarmed civilians.

The SRSG read a near-verbatim transcript of the statement he mentioned above where he pointed out that there are some armed groups outside the talks and cited them as the Janjaweed and other militia groups, Chadian rebels and warlords operating on their own.

In his statement, the SRSG described them as cowards because they did not join the talks and continue to attack innocent and unarmed civilians.

In the meeting that span about 2 hours, the SRSG highlighted the DPA which he said comes as a compromise that does not meet all demands of neither government nor the rebels and is neither a victory nor defeat to any of the parties.

He pointed out that the rebel movements have won an interim regional administration and the promise of a regional status for Darfur should the majority of the people vote so in a referendum.

He described this as a proper democratic measure.

The SRSG also pointed out that the people of Darfur have also won the fourth highest position in state, i.e. chief aide to the President of the Republic, in addition to four out of seven high positions in Darfur (assistant to the President of the Republic, three governorships and three deputy governorships), a just share in national revenue, support for short-term reconstruction projects and for long-term development projects monitored by independent institutions and with the participation of the international community and mechanisms to identify development projects.

On the security side, adds the SRSG, the movements have gained a ceasefire agreement with ample guarantees, a commitment to disarm the militias and compensation. He agrees however that the 30 million dollars earmarked for compensations is not enough and should be increased.

The SRSG further admits that the agreement does not solve everything but added that the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue will fill in the gaps. He said some things were omitted from the

agreement not by intention. Peace, he says, can be achieved in two ways: through the peace agreement and through internal dialogue under the supervision of the AU.

On guarantees, the SRSR said that the UN, the US and the AU have all given guarantees unprecedented in the history of agreements in Africa for the success of the DPA.

African Union Peace & Security Council seats today to discuss transition to an international force

(*AlAyaam* – 15th May. **Khartoum**) The African Union Peace & Security Council meets today in Addis to discuss the DPA and the future peacekeeping role of AU military.

A source says that the meeting will present its report to the Security Council once finished.

The source adds that among the issues to be discussed in the meeting include the UN request to deploy international peacekeepers to Darfur and to present logistic assistance to the AMIS.

The Sudan government has fielded a delegation led by foreign minister Akol to the talks.

UN Radio seeks support of Sudanese media persons

(*AlWan* – 15th May. **Khartoum**) The National Committee on Education, Science and Culture organised yesterday in coordination with the *AlSudani* daily and the UNESCO clubs a workshop on *Contributions of the Media* under the theme “The forms of expression in development and the eradication of poverty”.

Participating in the workshop was Leon Willems, UNMIS Chief of Radio, who criticised the National Press & Publications Council for restricting the ability of reporters to free expression because of its submission to the political structure.

He also criticised the heavy political influence on the union of journalists.

The Chief of Radio said that the regional radios are not able to provide broadcast services to the audience.

He called on the media fraternity to pressure the government into allowing UN radio to air in Khartoum.

Mr. Willems further commended the GoSS for its understanding and announced that UN radio will soon go on air in Juba.

CPA

Khartoum State approves constitution

(*ST* – 13th May. **Khartoum**) The Legislative Council of Khartoum State, chaired by its Speaker Mohamed Al-Sheikh Medani Saturday unanimously approved the Constitution of Khartoum State.

Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) representatives attended the meeting which saw the constitution approved after an article-by-article reading.

The constitution is to be sent to the Ministry of Justice to assert its compliance with the interim national constitution and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement prior to its signing by the Wali of the State.

Medani told the press that First Vice President Salva Kiir and Second Vice President Ali Osman Taha will attend the next meeting of the council where the state governor is expected to sign the constitution.

GoNU

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly accuses Ministry of Justice of dragging ites feet in presenting amended bills

(*AlSahafa* – 15th May. **Khartoum**) The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly has accused the Ministry of Justice of delaying the presentation of amended bills before parliament for ratification.

He says there are more than 60 bills and legislature that have to be amended to comply with the CPA and the interim constitution.

Deputy Speaker Atim Garang described the issues brought so far before the National Assembly as “symbolic”.

DPA

Rebel JEM commanders say they want peace - report

(*ST* – 14th May. **Khartoum**) A group of commanders from a Darfur rebel group that has so far refused to sign a peace deal for the western Sudan region have urged their leaders to approve the agreement, SUNA reports.

South Darfur province commanders from the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) called on the group’s leader Khalil Ibrahim to sign the African Union brokered peace deal that was agreed in Abuja on May 5.

"The agreement puts an end to the suffering of the people of Darfur, an objective we are striving to achieve," SUNA quoted Abdelrahim Adam Abu Rishah, JEM Secretary for South Darfur, as saying.

A number of JEM field commanders in South Darfur issued a statement declaring their joining of "the peace parade" by approving the peace agreement, the state-run news agency said.

The South Darfur-based faction said their approval of the agreement "was a result of the tribal reconciliation that has created a desire for tribal coexistence in the state."

SLM’s Nur still unwilling to join Darfur peace accord

(*Reuters/ST* – 14th May. **Abuja**) Efforts to persuade a rebel leader AbdulWahid to join the DPA were likely to continue beyond Monday’s deadline because his refusal to sign poses a serious threat to the accord, diplomats said.

News of the accord sparked violence in Darfur, where many feel it lacks legitimacy because only one rebel faction signed.

"With the situation on the ground, it's just not an option to leave AbdulWahid out," a diplomat, among many who have been struggling since May 5 to gain Nur's acceptance, said on Sunday.

The last six months of the Abuja peace talks took place in a no-frills hotel, but Nur had to relocate on Thursday to a dingy hostel in a sign the African Union was tightening the pressure on him.

Refugees have rioted against the agreement in several Darfur camps and students from the region have protested in the capital Khartoum. The violence has killed at least two people and heightened fears the war would continue despite the accord.

Nur is weak militarily but the international community wants him to endorse the agreement because he is a member of the Fur tribe, Darfur's largest. His rival Minnawi has more fighters but he is from the smaller Zaghawa ethnic group.

The JEM has also rejected the peace accord, but observers say this is less of a problem because the group has few fighters left in Darfur and its constituency is small.

The African Union, which brokered the accord, had set a Monday meeting of its Peace and Security Council (PSC) as a deadline for any new signature, but with sensitive talks under way involving Nur and Khartoum, that looked likely to slip.

"The PSC will find some sort of let-out to give them a few extra days to work something out," said a diplomat.

Nur says he will sign the peace deal, but only if the government first accepts some of his demands in an annex accord.

The demands include greater compensation from Khartoum for Darfur war victims and greater SLA involvement in monitoring the disarmament of the Janjaweed and the return home of refugees.

"At this stage we are not signing because we get nothing, but we are trying to push the government to make some concessions ... If the government accepts and signs, then Abdelwahed will sign," said close adviser Ibrahim Madibo.

Nur and a few advisers remain in the Nigerian capital Abuja, where the May 5 deal was signed after close to two years of peace talks. Most AU mediators have left, but some diplomats remain and intense negotiations are going on over the phone.

The talks are delicate because the government does not want to appear to have caved in to Nur. There is also a risk of angering Minnawi by giving last-minute concessions to his rival.

Minnawi and Nur loathe each other, but Minnawi wants Nur to sign because he does not want any spoilers undermining the accord he accepted.

Darfur

Six killed in protests against Darfur peace deal

(*ST* – 14th May. **Khartoum**) Six people were killed when demonstrators opposed to a peace deal the Sudanese government signed with Darfur rebels clashed with police in the war-torn region.

The deadliest clashes occurred in and around camps for internally displaced persons in South Darfur state, where three civilians reportedly died in an exchange of gunfire between demonstrators and the police on Saturday.

The unrest began when protesters denouncing the peace agreement beat to death a military intelligence agent inside the Kass camp, the *Al Rai al-Aam* daily said Sunday.

Police acting on a tip dispatched a task force to rescue the man, but the team ran into a group of protesters moving towards a nearby Africa Union (AU) camp and a gun battle ensued, the paper added.

"In an exchange of fire between the police and the protestors who had three rifles, three civilians were killed and two others were injured," it quoted area commissioner Ahmed Babikir as saying.

Witnesses said the protesters were chanting slogans in support of AbdulWahid Nur, according to *AlRai AlAam* newspaper.

An old man and a child were killed in similar violence in the Abu Shouk camp for displaced persons on the outskirts of al-Fasher, the capital of North Darfur state, according to an official statement issued by the regional government of North Darfur State.

"Just when North Darfur state looks forward to the peace that was signed in Abuja with joy and happiness, the enemies of peace are aspiring to stain the peace that has become a reality," an official statement said.

"This morning a group of displaced persons opposed to the agreement from Abu Shouk camp vandalised some vehicles belonging to the AU and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and headed towards al-Salam camp to instigate their brothers in this camp," it added.

"Police confronted them and prevented them from carrying out their plans. Some of the protesters then returned to Abu Shouk and began shooting at policemen and those who refused to join them," the statement said.

"This led to the death of an old man and a child," it continued, adding that another person was also injured in the incident.

The conflict in Darfur erupted in February 2003 when rebels from minority tribes rose up against the central government in Khartoum, prompting a fierce crackdown by troops and a proxy militia called the Janjaweed.

The combined effect of war and famine has left up to 300,000 people dead and displaced more than two million.

Sudan to give \$700 mln for Darfur rehabilitation fund

(*ST* – 13th May. **Khartoum**) Sudan will give 700 million dollars for the Darfur rehabilitation fund, a Sudanese minister said, the official SUNA reported.

In doing so, Sudanese government aims to encourage the donors to extend their contributions for the fund, said The State Minister at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Lual Deng, Saturday.

Deng received the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Sudan and discussed preliminary arrangements for the rehabilitation in Darfur region in the peace era, though the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) for requirements of the war-affected areas.

The minister indicated that the requirements are related to the access of relief and humanitarian affairs, the rehabilitation and re-building in Darfur, means to handle the foreign debts issue, adding that these axes will be discussed through the Donors' Conference, schedule to be held in mid next September.

Meanwhile, the minister affirmed the seriousness to speed up the implementation of rehabilitation projects in Darfur, adding that the technical committee for the sharing of power at the negotiations in Abuja has held a meeting immediately after the signing of Darfur Peace Agreement.

The committee discussed the technical preparations for the rehabilitation in Darfur, with the participation of the Dutch Minister of Cooperation and the special envoy of the UN Secretary General for Sudan, Jan Pronk, a number of donors, the leader of Sudan Liberation Movement Minni Minawi and a number of the leaders of his movement.

He further added that the meeting discussed ways to provide the requirements for rehabilitation in Darfur region.

Deng said that the preparations for the Donors Conference are being conducted by the Sudanese national unity government the government of the Netherlands in collaboration with the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Union, Britain the United States, Norway, the United Nations, besides six representatives of Darfur movements.

Sudanese government and the Sudan Liberation Movement of Minni Minawi signed a peace deal brokered by the African Union in Abuja, Nigeria on Friday May 5.

The conflict in Darfur erupted in February 2003 when rebels from minority tribes rose up against the central government in Khartoum, prompting a fierce crackdown by troops and a proxy militia called the Janjaweed.

Success of humanitarian plan is crucial for peace in Darfur - official

(*ST* – 14th May. **Khartoum**) The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs on Sunday reaffirmed that the success of the humanitarian programme in Darfur would be one of the most important indices of the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) signed by the government of Sudan and the Darfur Sudan Liberation Movement SLA faction of Mini Minnawi.

The general commissioner for humanitarian affairs at the ministry Hassabu Mohamed Abdellah has pointed out that the ministry was currently bent on doubling the efforts in the

humanitarian domains and of reinvigorating the partnership between the government and the donors and the United Nations and other international organizations.

He said Sudan would hold a deliberative meeting on Tuesday 16 May with the heads of the organizations working in the humanitarian field in Darfur with the view to study the implementation of the Darfur agreement particularly in the humanitarian axis and issues relevant to IDP, refugees, relief and voluntary return.

Hassabu said the minister for humanitarian affairs; the state minister for humanitarian affairs as well as the commissioner for humanitarian affairs would address the meeting. The commissioner stressed that the humanitarian situation in Darfur was now under full control and that they were not as bad as they used to be pictured by some quarters.

According to humanitarian indicators the situation in Darfur is now under control and is not as bad as it was being depicted particularly with regards to the malnutrition rates and the death rates, he said.

Hassabu added that the government has emergency plans for provision of the humanitarian requirement during the months of needs, which extend from July up to August, calling on the world community, the donors and the UN to honour their pledges.

He said although peace has been realized in the south still the civilians there get only 30 per cent of the pledges made by the International community. The commissioner stressed the keenness of the ministry to provide all the facilities needed within the law to the humanitarian organizations and all agencies operating in Darfur.

He pointed out that Sudan has a vast experience in the domain of humanitarian affairs that extend to over twenty years. He said the commission has a programme known as the procedures of the high way procedures that would be used to complete all procedures and all works related to the organizations working in Darfur within 72 hours.

On the recently drafted law on regulating humanitarian work, the commissioner stressed that the law was positive and allows the local and international organizations operating in Sudan and provide them with lots of facilities.

He said the highest legislative body in the country, the parliament, has ratified the law and that therefore it would not be acceptable to criticize or to question it because this would be against the national sovereignty.

Southern Sudan

Uganda's Museveni holds talks with Sudan's Salva Kiir

(*ST* – 14th May. **Kampala**) Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni and the Sudanese First Vice-President, Salva Kiir, held talks on the bilateral issues between the two countries and particularly the existence of the Ugandan rebels in South Sudan.

According to the Ugandan Monitor, the Sudanese First Vice-President Salva Kiir delivered to the Ugandan president a message from the Joseph Kony the leader of the rebel LRA.

Kony last week met and held talks with Kiir's deputy, Riek Machar, in the Southern Sudanese jungle of the Equatorial province and expressed his readiness for talks with the Ugandan government.

The South Sudan ruling party Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) leadership under Kiir offered to mediate in the talks between Kony and government.

South Sudan government thinks that Uganda has to engage talks with the LRA rebels, and Sudan could not indefinitely be the theatre of Ugandan army operation against the rebels.

In a meeting held on 4 May, with the LAR, Sudan gave Kony three conditions namely; that the rebel leader ceases killing civilians in Southern Sudan, enters negotiations with Uganda and the third option was failure to comply with the last two, the LRA leaves their territory.

Kony, said he had killed people in Southern Sudan in retaliation for Uganda's support to the SPLA/M and that he should be given time to stay in Sudan as he negotiates with Museveni's government.

We want irrevocable and irrefutable evidence that Kony is interested in talks," Minister Oryem said on Saturday. He confirmed that SPLM wanted to mediate in the talks. Oryem said that apart from the LRA, President Museveni and Kiir discussed the Sudan peace process and its implementation. He said, Museveni appealed to the

The insurgents have traditionally operated from bases in southern Sudan and northern Uganda. However, Otti moved into northeastern DR Congo's Garamba National Park in September 2005 with up to 400 fighters.

The LRA has waged war in northern Uganda for close to two decades, kidnapping thousands of boys and girls and forcing them to serve as child soldiers and sex slaves.

In 2005, the International Criminal Court at The Hague issued arrest warrants for Kony and four of his senior commanders - including Otti - for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Salva Kiir and his delegation once again congratulated President Museveni for successfully attaining the mandate of the people of Uganda to lead them for another five-year term.

Kiir is being accompanied by the minister of foreign affairs Lam Akol and the state minister at the Presidency, Telar Deng.

Ministry of Interior signs MoU with southern Sudan police

(AIRai AlAam – 15th May. **Khartoum**) The Ministry of Interior has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with southern Sudan police.

The MoU, say sources, covers the legal and administrative status of the police in southern Sudan, training and capacity building.

On the other hand, the chief of police in southern Sudan has underlined the need for coordination between the police and has revealed that some southern Sudanese police officers will be sent to the north for training.

Other Developments

Sudanese president receives report on compensations of Garang crash

(*ST* – 14th May. **Khartoum**) President Omer al-Bashir has received the final report of the technical committee for revising the estimations of compensations for the citizens affected by the incidents that followed the death of the former First Vice-President John Garang.

Following his meeting with al-Bashir on Saturday, the chairman of the committee, Abdelwahab Ahmed Hamza, said that the committee held 16 meetings in more than two months to revise numbers accurately and to compare it with the numbers of the federal committee.

He pointed out that 40% of the sums which the affected citizens presented to have been approved and would be paid in the coming period.

Pilot error was to blame for the helicopter crash that killed Sudanese First Vice President John Garang last year as he flew home from Uganda, the final report into the accident by Uganda and Sudan said on Tuesday 18 April 2006.

"We think the pilot was trying to keep below the clouds because of bad weather, yet he was coming into high terrain," Ugandan Works Minister John Nasasira told reporters in Kampala while releasing the report.

Garang was travelling in Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni's helicopter last July when it crashed into a hill in southern Sudan, killing all 14 passengers.

Police uncover 36 molotov cocktails in central Khartoum

(*AlSahafa* – 15th May. **Khartoum**) An informed source reveals that the police in Khartoum uncovered yesterday in central Khartoum 6 motorcar tyres in which were hidden 36 'molotov cocktails'.

The source says that a large number of these cans were uncovered near the main electric transformer near the AlBaraka Tower in central Khartoum while others were found near the Plaza Hotel and in other different parts of Khartoum.