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UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:➤ **UN/ Agencies**

- UNMIS peacekeepers in Yei and Torit asked to stop patrols

➤ **The Transition Debate**

- Sudan representative to New York says Security Council commitment to peace faces a true test
- Tripartite mechanism meeting in Addis reached agreement on 7 points, says head of Sudan team to the tripartite mechanism
- US defends China over Darfur diplomacy
- US Negroponte to Sudan to tell Bashir his time is up
- US slammed for delaying Sudan sanctions over Darfur

➤ **CPA**

- Agreement reached for formation of a 6-month interim authority in Abyei

➤ **GoNU**

- RSA's Mbeki concludes visit to Sudan
- Defence minister unveils plans to transfer ammunition depots outside Khartoum

➤ **Southern Sudan/ GoSS/SPLM**

- Kiir, "Lord's Resistance Army has one more chance"
- Eastern Equatoria Speaker gets Vote of No-Confidence
- Militias destabilise Jonglei State
- Dinka Bor chiefs agree to compensate Mundari
- No primary school places for returnee IDPs in Juba
- Nairobi protests for harassment of Kenyans in South Sudan

➤ **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement**

- SPLM envoy holds talks with DPA non-signatories
- Hareer and AbdelShafei in talks with field commanders over unification of non-signatory factions
- Chad apology not enough - Sudanese official

➤ **Other Developments**

- Ancient 'mega-lake' discovered in Sudan

HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies

UNMIS peacekeepers in Yei and Torit asked to stop patrols

(Juba Post) UNMIS Peacekeepers in Yei and Torit have been asked to stop patrols.

The Governor of Eastern Equatoria and the Commissioner for Yei have asked the UNMIS Team Site Commanders in their respective areas to stop night patrols which they say creates unease within the local populace and heightens tensions with soldiers. The Commissioner for Yei said however that he would allow the patrols only if there is prior coordination with him.

The patrols are an essential part of the peacekeepers' duties as per the CPA and are being carried out by the UNMIS Team Sites as such.

UNMIS' Public Information Office is organising a CPA presentation that would include an emphasis on explaining the purpose of the patrols and asking the population to help spread the word that these patrols do not decrease but actually increase local safety and security.

The UN and the poor achievements ... Under this heading, the editorial piece in today's *AlAyaam* daily points out that the UN had put on formidable pressures on Sudan to accept the three-phase support package to the AMIS and had world focus on that issue. The paper goes on to say that what many did not realise is that the UN itself had fallen short in meeting in a timely manner its obligations to the first phase of that support package. The editorial wonders how long the UN will take to meet its obligations towards a Heavy Support Package if it required months to provide for the Light Support Package. It goes on to say that it is not only worrying to the paper but also to the AMIS that had indeed highlighted these concerns in its final communiqué following its meeting of the fifth of this month.

The paper quotes from Paragraph VII of the said communiqué and goes on to point out that this shows that the UN talks a lot but draws back when time comes for implementation.

The editorial winds up by saying that failure by the UN to meet its full obligations to the Light Support Package even after 7 months have elapsed since the New York meeting only means that the Heavy Support Package may only come to fruition by next year ... while suffering and fighting continue in Darfur.

The Transition Debate

Sudan representative to New York says Security Council commitment to peace faces a true test

(*AlSudani; SudanTribune.com*) Sudan's representative to the UN has underlined the need for the Security Council to meet its obligations of the day following the Addis Ababa meeting on the Heavy Support Package through strengthening and supporting the peace process in Darfur, pressuring the armed groups to come on board the peace process and through guaranteeing

sustainable funding for the AMIS now that all the technical aspects of the support package has been sorted out.

The Sudanese diplomat also noted that the UN peacekeeping chief for Africa who chaired the recent meeting in Addis would be briefing the Security Council on the decisions the tripartite mechanism reached in Addis. He pointed out that the Addis meeting is a true test for the level of commitment of members of the Security Council to supporting the peace process for Darfur and strengthening the African Union.

He said that the meeting of the tripartite mechanism completely resolved the debate over the Heavy Support Package and that “the ball is now on the court of the UN”.

Foreign minister Lam Akol had earlier urged the UN to adopt a resolution on financing the peacekeeping mission in Darfur.

He said the resolution would facilitate the deployment of more African troops in Darfur and reiterated his government’s position that the peacekeeping force to be reinforced by the UN in Darfur must be commanded by the African Union [*follow the link for the full text of the SudanTribune.com story* [Sudan urges UN to adopt resolution on financing Darfur force](#)].

Tripartite mechanism meeting in Addis reached agreement on 7 points, says head of Sudan team to the tripartite mechanism

(*AlHayat*) Dr. Muttrif Sidiq who headed the Sudan government delegation to the meeting of the tripartite mechanism in Addis Ababa said that the meeting culminated in agreement over 7 points. He said that the eighth point was on the use of helicopters and is still under discussion but asserted that the differences on this point were not at all material.

He told a press conference yesterday that the main queries were on who will manage those aircraft of which the African Union had requested for in each sector and on the nature of the mission of these aircraft. He said that the Sudan delegation received satisfactory responses to these queries and expressed hopes that those answers will help them make the appropriate decision on the issue and consequently reach agreement over the issue in the coming few days. By thus doing, he pointed out, the tripartite mechanism would have reached full agreement over the Heavy Support Package.

Dr. Siddiq who is also the Undersecretary for Sudan's foreign ministry expressed hopes that Security Council will issue a statement to welcome this agreement and to directly start financing the package.

He also pointed out that the agreement on this package stressed that priority be given to qualified Africans and Sudanese in the civilian component.

AlSahafa also quotes President Thambo Mbeki who just concluded a visit to Sudan as saying at a press conference yesterday that the UN and the African Union still have a lot of things to do before implementing the Heavy Support Package. At the top of these, he adds, is that the

Security Council has to issue a resolution committing support to the process, identifying the donors, their contributions and citing a specific timeline for them to meet those financial obligations.

US defends China over Darfur diplomacy

(*FT via NewsEdge*) The US special envoy for Sudan, Andrew Natsios*, yesterday defended China from criticism that it is not doing enough to use its economic influence over Khartoum to stop the violence in Darfur.

He said that the US sanctions-based approach was complemented, rather than undercut, by Beijing's "subtle diplomacy". "I think they may be the crucial actors. I think there's been a lot of China-bashing in the west. And I'm not sure, to be very frank with you, right now it's very helpful," Mr. Natsios told a Senate hearing.

The Bush administration, under pressure from Congress to match its rhetoric with action over what it has denounced as "genocide" in Darfur, has put on hold its sanctions proposals - both its own unilateral plans and those before the United Nations - for two to four weeks at the request of Ban Ki-moon, UN secretary-general, to give diplomacy more time.

** The full text of the Natsios testimony is attached separately*

US Negroponte to Sudan to tell Bashir his time is up

(*NYT via NewsEdge*) While the Bush administration is dispatching another top envoy — this time Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte — to deliver another strong message to the Sudanese government about the killing in the Darfur region, critics say the diplomacy is allowing Sudan to play for time as the death toll mounts.

But even now, Democrats are demanding a plan to address the Darfur crisis, and suggesting their own proposals, including one to impose a no-flight zone over Darfur, and another to authorize American states to divest from foreign companies invested in Sudan.

But after hearing from United Nations envoys that the organization wants more time for diplomacy, the State Department said last week that Mr. John D. Negroponte was heading to Sudan. Administration officials have billed the trip as one last chance to try to get Mr. Bashir to allow a United Nations peacekeeping force.

It remains unclear what Mr. Negroponte can accomplish that a succession of administration officials to Sudan's capital, Khartoum, could not.

US slammed for delaying Sudan sanctions over Darfur

But the US is also facing criticism from some quarters for not moving ahead on the sanctions. "I am at a loss as to why we aren't engaging in everything, including the use of military force, to stop them," said Joseph Biden, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"I think it's not only not time to take force off the table, it's time to put force on the table and use it now," he said during a heated exchange with Natsios. "I think there's a moral imperative to do that."

Natsios defended the decision to give negotiators more time and said a lull in fighting in Darfur since January had improved prospects for arranging peace talks between rebel groups and the government.

Natsios also stressed that multilateral action involving the UN or European Union would be more effective than go-it-alone US sanctions.

"We need Ban Ki-moon's support on this," he said.

The White House meanwhile said Bush had spoken to Ban on Wednesday about "the need for greater action to resolve the crisis in Darfur," according to a spokesman.

Biden argued in favor of a NATO-enforced no-fly zone over Darfur, a region the size of France, but Natsios said this could harm efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the 2.5 million displaced people in the province.

CPA

Agreement reached for formation of a 6-month interim authority in Abyei

(*Akhbar Alyaum*) Prominent officials at the Presidency of the Republic announced yesterday that agreement has been reached for the formation of an interim administration for Abyei pending sorting out the differences between the National Congress Party and the SPLM over the ABC Panel of Experts' report on the Abyei Boundaries.

Idreiss AbdelGadir (NCP) and Tilara Deng (SPLM) said in a statement on the implementation of the CPA before parliament yesterday that the needs of the citizens of Abyei has obligated the formation of an interim authority for the region with a 6-month date pending resolution of the differences of the PoE report. The statement also points out that the region will be demarcated by temporary boundaries to enable the interim administration carry out its duties.

On implementation of the CPA, the statement noted that weak donor response was to blame for the slow implementation of the peace agreement.

- *AlSudani* reports that a pilot census activity is due to take place nation-wide next Sunday. The activity is being organised by the National Bureau of Statistics.

GoNU

RSA's Mbeki concludes visit to Sudan

(*AlSahafa; Sudan Vision*) President Bashir told a joint press conference with visiting RSA counterpart Thabo Mbeki that the two had discussed issues relating to the implementation of the CPA, the peace process for Darfur, the tripartite mechanism and the ICC summons for.

He said that the visiting president promised to contribute to efforts for resolving the Darfur issue and to continue efforts to mend relations between Sudan and Chad.

Speaking to the press, Mbeki expressed satisfaction on the implementation of the CPA and promised to continue contacts with donors to meet their pledges made in Oslo.

On the peace process for Darfur, Mbeki said that the African Union will make estimates of the funds needed for the AMIS forces in Darfur and submit the same to the Security Council which will in turn urge donors to provide these funds.

The RSA president returned home yesterday following a 2-day visit here during which he also had talks with VP Kiir in Juba over the implementation of the CPA.

Defence minister unveils plans to transfer ammunition depots outside Khartoum

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Minister of Defence says a committee has been established to assess the damages caused by the recent ammunition explosion in Khartoum and said it will carry out its job in cooperation with the police and the affected. He also said that the victims will be compensated.

The minister who was speaking before parliament yesterday said that the SAF had already started constructing ammunition depots outside Khartoum. He said that all ammo depots in the city will be transferred to sites outside the capital by the year's end.

A number of MPs called on government to transfer the army out of the capital and vented fierce criticism on the Speaker for not allowing deliberation over the defence minister's briefing on the ammo explosions.

On the situation on Sudan's western borders, the defence minister said that the SAF is monitoring the movement of Chadian troops and expects an attack on el-Geneina. He said that the government is sending in reinforcements to the area and is ready for any attack.

Some MPs for the Darfur region were critical of the minister's briefing on the recent Chadian attack on Darfur and demanded that Darfur be cleared of the presence of any form of Chadian opposition. Some even called for the resignation of the defence minister.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS/SPLM

Kiir, "Lord's Resistance Army has one more chance"

(*Juba Post*) The President of the GoSS announced to a crowd in Yambio that he will give the Lord's Resistance Army one more opportunity to negotiate peace with the Uganda government or else, he warned, the GoSS will “take serious steps against them”.

Speaking during a visit to Western Equatoria, Kiir said his government is ready to work with the international community, the Lord's Resistance Army and the Uganda government to end the 20-year conflict in northern Uganda.

Eastern Equatoria Speaker gets Vote of No-Confidence

(*Juba Post*) The majority of MPs of the Eastern Equatoria Legislative Assembly have passed a motion placing a Vote of No-Confidence on the Speaker and his deputy.

The MP who moved the motion pointed out that the Speaker lacks “approach and the linguistic qualities” necessary to articulate his points and “relies on an outdated authoritarian and manipulative type of leadership”. The Deputy Speaker is accused of misappropriation of public funds.

Militias destabilise Jonglei State

(*The Citizen*) Insecurity in Jonglei State has left nearly 400 people dead, the state governor reports.

Governor Philip Leek who was speaking at an interview pointed out that insecurity had somewhat calmed down from April to October last year following several peace conferences and a disarmament exercise but Ismail Konyi's troops have resumed their cattle raiding and child abduction activities in the area.

On the ongoing voluntary community-driven disarmament in Murle area, it was reported yesterday that only old guns that are no longer in use were collected – among them were SKS and Lee-Enfield rifles.

Dinka Bor chiefs agree to compensate Mundari

(*Juba Post*) Dinka-Bor chiefs have agreed to compensate Mundari cattle keepers from Nyambar, Terekeka County, in terms of livestock and money following the reconciliation talks between the two tribes were finalised.

Peace talks between the Dinka-Bor and the Mundari community leaders started in Terekeka on 30 March this year and was adjourned but will recommence later this month. But cattle raiding has continued despite these talks.

No primary school places for returnee IDPs in Juba

(*Juba Post*) All primary schools in southern Sudan opened their doors to students the week after Easter but disappointed awaited the over 800 returnee children who cannot go to school because of a shortage of teachers and classrooms in Central Equatoria.

Only 812 of the returnees who are said to have come from both within Sudan and East Africa have been enrolled in school and their number is on the increase.

The Director for Basic Education in Central Equatoria State has pleaded to the government to do something about the problem.

Nairobi protests for harassment of Kenyans in South Sudan

(*SudanTribune.com*) Kenyan authorities have protested over the harassment of its citizens in Southern Sudan, the Nation reported on Wednesday.

In an April 8 letter to the Government of Southern Sudan, the Kenyan embassy in Khartoum said truck drivers, businesspersons were facing persistent harassment, intimidation, beatings and arbitrary detention by Southern Sudan agents [*follow the link for the full text of the story* [Nairobi protests for harassment of Kenyans in South Sudan](#)].

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

SPLM envoy holds talks with DPA non-signatories

(*Alwan; Juba Post*) The SPLM has highlighted the need to unify the views of the DPA non-signatory factions in a bid to achieve peace for Darfur.

State minister for the Presidency, Tilara Deng, has revealed that a meeting is in the pipeline between the recently appointed SPLM envoy for Darfur and non-signatory factions with the view to complement the Darfur Peace Agreement. He said that the SPLM envoy will list down the views of the non-signatory factions and their observations on the Darfur Peace Agreement and will then present these to the concerned parties in the GoNU.

In another story, the *Juba Post* reports that the NRF has welcomed the appointment of Reverend Clement Jada as SPLM envoy for Darfur and pledges full cooperation to secure a just peace in Darfur.

Hareer and AbdelShafei in talks with field commanders over unification of non-signatory factions

(*AlAyaam*) Shareef Harir and Ahmed AbdelShafei held talks recently on the issue of unifying the field and political leaderships of the opposition SLM/A.

SLA spokesperson Jar-el-Nebbi AbdelKarim said that the two leaders held talks in areas they control but are yet to reach agreement on some outstanding issues. He said that the SLM informed them that it has no links with the NRF.

Chad apology not enough - Sudanese official

(*AFP via SudanTribune.com*) A top Sudanese official said Wednesday that Chad's apology for crossing into Sudanese territory in pursuit of rebels, leading to deadly border clashes was not enough.

"Some of our troops and civilians have been killed or injured and property of civilians has been looted... We cannot be satisfied with apologies and we will therefore lodge a complaint against Chad with the UN and other regional organizations," Foreign Under Secretary Mutref Sikkeik told Sudan Television.

Speaking at the National Assembly, Defense Minister Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein vowed that the SAF is capable of "protecting the country and taking all measures for repulsing any aggression." He accused Chad of harboring and training Darfur rebel movements.

But Sudanese President Omar al-Basher had a more toned-down approach, saying he was counting on South African mediation to help contain tensions with Chad.

Basher, speaking after talks with South African President Thabo Mbeki who often plays a peacemaking role, said Mbeki was in touch with Chadian officials to help build bridges.

Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi was to send an envoy, Abdelsalem Triki, to Sudan and Chad on Wednesday for talks aimed at easing tensions between the two countries.

The *AFP* meanwhile reports that Chad's President Idriss Deby Wednesday pledged to improve relations with eastern neighbour Sudan following the recent clashes.

"I am happy that President Deby assured me he would stick to the Tripoli accord," Abdel Salem Triki, number two in Libya's foreign ministry in charge of African affairs and Gadhaffi's special envoy, told reporters after meeting the Chadian leader.

Triki, who was due to arrive in Sudan later Wednesday, however admitted, "There were certain steps that have to be taken" by the belligerents, adding that Deby and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir should hold talks.

[*follow the link for the text of these and related stories* [Sudan's Bashir seeks "rapprochement" with Chad](#); [Chad committed to improve relations with Sudan - Libya](#)].

Other Developments

Ancient 'mega-lake' discovered in Sudan

(*UPI; SudanTribune.com; AllIntibaha*) U.S. scientists using satellite data have found evidence of an ancient mega-lake in northern Darfur that might lead to new groundwater sources in Sudan.

Boston University researchers Eman Ghoneim and Farouk El-Baz made the finding while investigating Landsat images and Radarsat data. Radar waves were able to penetrate the fine-grained sand cover in Darfur province's hot and dry eastern Sahara area to reveal buried features.

The scientists said the lake occupied an area of about 19,100 square miles but they made no inferences regarding its age. However, they said its vast extent suggests it existed for a long period of time when rainfall was plentiful in the eastern Sahara.

"One thing is certain," said El-Baz, "much of the lake's water would have seeped through the sandstone substrate to accumulate as groundwater."

Ghoneim said the ancient lake represents indisputable evidence of the past rainy conditions in the eastern Sahara. "It will have significant consequences for improving our knowledge of continental climate change and regional palaeohydrology," he added.

A paper detailing the discovery is to be published in the International Journal of Remote Sensing.

Following the discovery, AlIntibaha daily reports that local strategic experts have called on the Sudan government to show more interest on Darfur in its strategic plans due to the wealth of resources it has.

Dr. Ahmed el-Amin Abas, an expert on water security strategy, pointed out that these resources have to be taken into account in the country's strategies because most of the ongoing conflicts the world over focus on resources. He pointed out that the recent UK call for a flight ban over Darfur is only proof of how much the west values the resources of the Darfur region. Darfur also actually sits on underground water as well as valuable minerals such as Uranium and oil, he adds.