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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

VP Kiir briefs DSRSG on SPLM efforts for peace in Darfur

(*Alwan*) The Vice-President of the Republic held talks at his offices yesterday with the DSRSG and briefed him on the effort by the GoNU and the SPLM to resolve the problems of Darfur.

Following the meeting, DSRSG da Silva told the *Sudan News Agency [SUNA]* that the meeting is an extension of efforts by the UN and many friendly states to help resolve the problem in Darfur. he said that they also discussed progress on the implementation of the CPA.

Iraqi refugee attempts suicide before the UNHCR offices

(*AlSudani et al*) An Iraqi refugee attempted suicide yesterday by scaling to the top of a mast at the UNHCR offices in Khartoum and threatening to drop himself in protest over what he described as the insufficient amount of \$100 given him by the UNHCR for his upkeep.

He succumbed to pleas to climb down after promises that his demand for more would be met.

Hundreds of refugees who gathered at the site of the incident condemned UNHCR policies towards them and the man's wife called upon the Secretary-General to change the UNHCR staff in Khartoum.

WFP Executive Director relieves the spokesperson of duty*

(*AlSudani*) The new Executive Director for the WFP decreed yesterday the dismissal of the agency's spokesperson in Rome following statement by the spokesperson on a food consignment held by Sudanese authorities in Port Sudan on the grounds it was genetically modified foodstuff.

The Executive Director pointed out that this was routine procedure that any state had the right to follow.

* *WFP indicates that this report is not accurate.*

The Transition Debate

Update on the Tripoli meeting on Darfur

The Tripoli meeting on Darfur kicked off last Saturday and concluded yesterday in a final communiqué [follow the link for the full text [TEXT: Tripoli Consensus on Darfur Political Process](#)].

Most of the leading local newspapers like *AlSahafa*, *AlAyaam*, *Alrai AlAam*, etc. had the story as a lead headliner but draw their reports from the text of the communiqué. Although the communiqué

talks of support of the participants to a “hybrid operation”, some newspapers like *AlSahafa* talk of support by the participants for a “hybrid force”.

Government agrees to deployment of 20,000 African Union troops to Darfur

(*AlSahafa*) Speaking at the conclusion of a short visit to the country yesterday, African Union Commissioner Alpha Oumar Konare announced that the African Union is planning to deploy 20,000 peacekeepers to Darfur and expects the UN to announce in the next few days the availability of funds for these forces.

Konare told reporters following a meeting with President Bashir yesterday that they agreed that what is required is not to open new forums but to instead implement what has been agreed upon between the government, the African Union and the UN.

He reaffirmed that the envisaged forces will be under African command and will have UN logistic and financial support. He pointed out that Khartoum’s acceptance of these forces had nothing to do with the 3-phase support package.

Konare says he came along with an initiative to help mend relations between Khartoum and N'Djamena and another to facilitate relief operations.

US sees progress on Darfur solution, peacekeeping

(*SudanTribune.com*) The United States said on Sunday that Sudan was "falling in line" on accepting a major U.N. peacekeeping force for Darfur and welcomed progress at weekend talks towards a political settlement to the conflict.

"There’s enough international pressure now and enough support from (Sudan’s) allies" for such a force, Andrew Natsios, Washington’s special envoy on Darfur, told Reuters, citing Egypt and China in particular.[*Follow the link for the full text of this story* [US sees progress on Darfur solution, peacekeeping](#)].

CPA

High rank GoSS delegation in Khartoum for talks over southern constitutions

(*AlSharei AlSiyasi*) A high ranks GoSS delegation is in Khartoum for talks with officials here over the issue of the constitutions of southern Sudanese states.

The talks will see the GoSS Minister for Constitutional Affairs and Legal Reform answer queries on why these constitutions have not yet been brought before the Federal Ministry of Justice for compliance with the Interim National Constitution and the CPA.

Southern Sudan

Disarmament of Equatoria militias launched in Juba today

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The disarmament of militias in Equatoria that have chosen to join the SAF will commence today in Juba, military commanders affirm.

The militias that include the Toposa Forces, the Boya Forces and the Murle Forces said they are ready to hand over their weapons and to be demobilised.

Military commanders in Juba say the SPLA should appreciate this behaviour and called for mutual respect between the two.

The Juba Post 'Manager' suspends four senior staffs in Juba

(*SudanTribune.com*) The Juba Post's manager Hildebrand Bijleveld has suspended four journalists including the Editor-in-Chief Bullen Kenyi and the chief accountant at the main office in Juba on Friday.

The suspended journalists told the Sudan Tribune that Bijleveld broke into the Juba Post petty cash drawer last week and collected the remaining amount of money in the drawer. "For that act, the accountant filed a police case against Hildebrand on Wednesday. He was placed under police custody and released on bail late Thursday and is pending a court hearing. The date for the hearing has not been set" Kenyi said.

Kenyi said that they were served with the suspension letters on Friday signed by Hildebrand after his release on bail. "I think he is trying to keep us away as we are fighting for legal ownership of the company and the newspaper. But I assure the public that Hildebrand will not succeed. The paper is ours and is registered under South Sudan regulations. The support provided by the donors is not for Hildebrand as an individual, but is to support the newspaper as it tries to its best to be different from the other newspapers and strives for independence in the content of articles published," Kenyi said.

"I want to inform the government of South Sudan, churches and the public that the paper [The Juba Post] is now in crisis so that you know," he added.

Kenyi said that the Juba Post has filed a complaint with the paper's supporters (NCA, ICCO and UNDP) regarding discrimination against the staff by Hildebrand since the money from the donors is channeled through him.

"Hildebrand acts as if the donor's money is coming from his pocket to control the paper and its staff. Since the paper was established in 2005, there is no car to facilitate the activities of the reporters and compensation of the staff is very low compared to their responsibilities. The Editor-in-Chief is paid 500 US dollars, the Chairman of the Board of directors who is also the General Manager of Juba Media and Juba Post is also paid the same. Even the coordinating editor in Khartoum Charles Luganya is also paid the same amount of money despite the fact that he works more than twelve hours on Wednesdays. We requested a merit increase for this year but Hildebrand rejected as he controls the money," Kenyi told Sudan Tribune.

According to the chief accountant Sarah Sadia Paul, Hildebrand requested her and the Chairman of the Board Charles Rihan settle the problem but she declined. "I want to receive the entire financial document in front of me as my witness. It is possible that he has performed forgery in the documents," She said.

Hildebrand was not available for comment and it is not clear if there is going to be a newspaper edition for this week since the journalists are discouraged following the suspension of the Editor-in Chief and their fellow coworkers.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Darfur rebels provide details on helicopter shot down

(SudanTribune.com; the local press) Two Darfur rebel commanders said a Sudanese army helicopter was shot down in North Darfur, denouncing regular bombing of their positions in the region.

Two rebel commanders told Sudan Tribune that a Sudanese army helicopter was shot down in Umrai in northern Darfur region. Suleiman Marjan, the field commander of the Sudan Liberation Army in North Darfur and Ahmed Abdelshafi confirmed the event on Sunday.

Marjan was the first to announce the crash, while Ahmed Abdelshafi said that they arrested the pilot of the plane and gave details about his identity.

According to Abdelshafi who is the leader of a SLM faction, the pilot was the sole survivor of the crash. « His name is Muawya Hussein Mohamed, he is from al-Rahad (Kordofan), he resides currently in al-Fasher, and he is married with a woman from the capital of North Darfur."

According to Abdelshafi the pilot is graduated in 2001 from the military aviation school in Jabait. The rebel leader reassured his family saying he would be well treated, "because he was just executing orders" he added.

Abdel Shafi, told Sudan Tribune the helicopter gunships which took part in the attack were participating in air strikes against their positions since one week. "The aim of these attacks is to sabotage our reunification conference" he added.

"As you know, we were preparing to hold a conference involving other factions of the SLM to try and unite under one leadership to negotiate with the government. But now we decided to stop this process for the time being and we will resume later on."

But a Sudanese armed forces spokesman told Reuters in Khartoum he was not aware of any attacks but a helicopter had gone missing on a reconnaissance mission after reporting a technical problem.

The armed forces spokesman said the air force had lost contact with one helicopter on a reconnaissance mission 60 km (37.5 miles) northeast of the town of Kutum in north Darfur on Sunday morning.

"The pilot reported a technical failure, then we lost contact with him," he told Reuters. "The armed forces are now conducting a search-and-rescue mission."

Situation in Darfur better than at any time before - Presidential aide

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 29 Apr.) Presidential Adviser Dr Madjhub al-Khalifah announced that the Chairman of the African Union Commission, Prof Alpha Oumar Konare, has presented two initiatives on improvement of relations between Sudan and Chad and on holding meeting with humanitarian agencies in Addis Ababa for providing humanitarian organizations operating in Darfur with urgent needs before the rainy season.

He said the meeting of the president of the republic, FM Umar al-Bashir, and Konare at the Council of Ministers here Sunday [29 April], underlined the importance of pursuing African track in resolution of Darfur problem and making the movements that did not sign Abuja agreement join the peace process in Darfur.

Dr Khalifah indicated that Prof Konare called for effective implementation of DPA, pointing out that President Al-Bashir briefed the Chairman of the AU Commission on formation of the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority.

He added that Prof Konare expected resolution to be issued by UN concerning providing funding to the AU troops in Darfur.

Dr Al-Khalifah pointed out that the security situation in Darfur now is better than at any time before.

Saudi Arabia describes the situation in Darfur as 'tragic'

(SudanTribune.com) The Saudi Ambassador to the US, Adel Al-Jubeir, has described the situation in Darfur as tragic in the first characterization of its kind from a Saudi official. Al-Jubeir, speaking to reporters following his meeting with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, said that his country supports a regional solution to the crisis.

Al-Jubeir said that he discussed the situation in Darfur with Ban and the negotiations underway to seek a resolution to the conflict and increasing the number of UN peacekeepers in Darfur. He said that Saudi Arabia is seeking to solve the crisis on a more regional basis.

The Saudi envoy would not say whether his country is willing to contribute troops to Darfur but he said that his country "will bear its responsibilities to alleviate the sufferings of our brothers in Sudan".

US envoy to Sudan hails Tripoli accord on Darfur

(JANA via BBC Monitoring, 29 Apr.) The US president's envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios, has hailed the Tripoli Accord statement issued at the end of the international conference on the situation in Darfur and the efforts to achieve peace in the province.

In a statement to a Jana reporter he said: "The Tripoli document issued at the end of the conference is constructive and highly important and I stress, once more, that it is the first time that all parties agree on one process."

He, moreover, said: "The most important thing in this conference is the attendance, for the first time, of all regional and international parties and the move towards a common view on unified talks on the peace process in Darfur and that the only solution for the problem is the political process."

Other Developments:

Missionaries killed in central Sudan armed attack buried

(AlKhartoum via BBC Monitoring, 29 Apr.) The bodies of the four missionaries who died in an armed attack when they were travelling south of Kadugli [south Kurdufan] were buried yesterday in Kadugli while the body of a fifth Egyptian missionary was transported to Khartoum and then on to Cairo to be buried.

A delegation from the government of south Kurdufan yesterday visited four men and a woman, injured during the attack, at Kadugli hospital and was reassured of their health condition.

Those critically injured were transported to Khartoum. Security authorities have begun investigating the incident but the identity of the attackers and their motives are still unknown.

Some sources have rejected the possibility that the attackers could have been one of the armed robbery gangs which have recently become active in some parts in the state.

Some reports indicated that the car carrying the 13 members of the Coptic Church delegation was initially shot at in Khor Ganayah while on its way from Tarji to Kadugli. When the car refused to stop a grenade was launched at it destroying the rear end of the car and injuring the passengers in the back while the driver was unhurt. The attackers fled and citizens in the area volunteered to assist the injured.