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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies

Annan to send envoy Ahmadun as SRSR in Sudan

(*AlRai AlAam*) UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, speaking to President Bashir over telephone yesterday, said that he will be sending his assistant, Ahmadun Bin Abdullah, as special envoy to Sudan.

In the telephone call Annan said that the envoy's mission is to discuss with the government on means for the implementation of the UN support package for the African Mission in Sudan.

President Bashir expressed appreciation for the Secretary General concern for attaining a comprehensive peace for the Darfur issue through dialogue.

UN launches joint humanitarian and development appeal for almost \$2 billion

(*The Citizen*) Sudan will require over \$1.8 billion to fund humanitarian, recovery and development projects next year, the UN said today while launching a joint appeal in Geneva, an amount representing roughly half the UN's global funding requirements for aid operations in 2007.

The investment we are calling for here today will be critical for Sudan's transition from a conflict-afflicted nation dependent upon the provision of humanitarian assistance to a nation increasingly capable of providing for the needs of its population," said DSRSG Manuel Aranda da Silva.

Most of the funds from the UN Work Plan for Sudan, around \$1.26 billion, will go to fund humanitarian activities for large numbers of population still in need, mostly in Darfur, while around \$563 million is needed to fund recovery and development efforts, OCHA said in a press release.

The Transition Debate:

UN to deploy 183 experts in Darfur next week

(*KUNA via SudanTribune.com* – 17th Dec. **Khrt.**) Some 183 UN servicemen and experts are to be deployed in Sudan's Darfur region next week as part of UN technical, logistic and consultative support for African forces there, a Sudanese official said here Sunday.

A trilateral meeting is expected to be held on Monday between representatives from the Sudanese government, the UN and the African Union (AU) on the starting of the UN logistic mission, said Sudanese foreign ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadiq.

The first stage of the mission provides for deploying 105 servicemen, 33 policemen and 45 civilian experts, in addition to logistic and technical communication equipment, he said, noting that they will be under the AU's control.

The second stage of the mission will be put in place early next year.

The three-stage plan was proposed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in an Addis Ababa meeting on Darfur mid-November.

Khartoum had earlier opposed the third stage of the plan, which provided for deploying 22,000 mixed UN-AU forces in Darfur.

Sudan, the United Nations and the AU agreed in principle on 16 November to create a hybrid mission, raising hopes that a stronger U.N.-backed force could be deployed to help stem the violence.

Arab League in the process of sending support funds to the AMIS

(*Sudan Vision*) The League of Arab States says it intends to remit support funds it has obtained from member states to allow AMIS overcome the financial difficulties it is facing.

The organisation's envoy to Darfur, Zaid Alsaban, said that a number of Arab states including Sudan have recently responded to the calls by the League's Secretary-General to make available a reasonable support while other states have expressed their readiness to contribute in due time.

CPA

Sudan's partners to hold joint meeting soon

(*via SudanTribune.com* – 17th Dec. **Khrt.**) Sudanese ruling party announced that a meeting would be held in the coming days between the two major partners of the national unity government to discuss the implementation of Sudan peace agreement.

Presidential Adviser and Secretary of Political Contact at the National Congress Mustafa Osman Ismail has announced that a meeting of the joint higher committee between the National Congress and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) will be held in the coming days, which is to be chaired by the Sudanese president chairman of the National Congress Field Marshal Omer al-Bashir and First Vice President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit.

Ismail pointed out in a press statement that he met with Secretary of the northern sector of SPLM Yassir Arman and discussed issues of the joint higher committee, explaining that the meeting would be preceded by meetings of the subcommittees.

Please click on the link below for the full story from SudanTribune.com
[Sudan's partners to hold joint meeting soon](#)

GoNU

Government approves ICC prosecutor visit to Sudan next February

(*AlRai AlAam*) Minister of Justice Mohammed Ali Almardi says that the ICC prosecutor has asked the government to allow him visit Sudan next February.

The minister says government has approved the prosecutor's visit.

Meanwhile and at an interview in New York on 18th December, Luis Moreno Ocampo stressed that he would investigate individuals in the Darfur case on the basis of evidence irrespective of the political position of the indicted person.

Please click on the below link for excerpts and a transcript of the interview sourced from the SudanTribune.com

[ICC: 'No Sudanese official immune from Prosecution'](#)

Southern Sudan

GoSS not satisfied with the stand of GoNU towards Juba events

First Vice President and president of the GoSS, LT. Silva Kiir has criticised the position taken by the GoNU on the recent events in Juba, reports *AlRai AlAam*.

Meanwhile, the *Sudan Tribune* daily reports that a military investigation committee has been formed to probe into the causes of the recent unrest in Juba.

Speaking to reporters in Juba, Dr. Luka Biong, a minister in the Office of the President of the GoSS said that the curfew in Juba will shortly be lifted and informed reporters that the security situation in Juba is quite stable and that life has returned to normal.

Dr. Biong further said that GoSS President, Salva Kiir, is carrying out efforts to resolve the issue within the context of the GoNU and in his capacity as General Commander of the SPLA but away from the spotlights.

Investigation committee to probe Juba incidents

Allintibaha the minister of GoSS office, Dr. Loka Beuneg, has revealed the formation of the military investigations committee to probe Juba incidents, pointing out that curfew imposed during the last incidents in Juba will be lifted during the coming days.

Dr. Loka Beuneg said to SUNA Forum that the security situations return calm in Juba after the last incidents.

South Sudan begins to recover despite widening war in Darfur

(via SudanTribune.com) While a devastating armed conflict continues in western Sudan's Darfur region, the people of southern Sudan are beginning to recover from a 21-year civil war, according to Rob Haarsager, a Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) country representative.

In southern Sudan, a gruelling conflict between rebels and government forces claimed an estimated 2 million lives and displaced about 4 million people by the time a peace agreement was signed in January of 2005.

Today, however, the southern Sudanese city of Juba has become a boomtown as the seat of southern Sudan's new parliament and the base for aid organizations working in the region. In January, Rob and Mary Haarsager, MCC's Sudan country representatives, will move to Juba after living since 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Rob Haarsager says the changes in Juba are striking when compared to his memories of the city. The Haarsagers lived in Juba as MCC workers from 1985 to '87 in the early years of the civil war.

Please click on the link below for the full story from Mennonite Central Committee
[South Sudan begins to recover despite widening war in Darfur](#)

Darfur

Kiir and Minnawi agree to deploy joint SPLA, SLM forces with SAF in Darfur

(AlSahafa) V-P Salva Kiir has agreed to a suggestion by the Senior Presidential Assistant and head of Darfur Interim Authority Mini Minnawi for the deployment of a joint SPLA, SLM and SAF force to Darfur.

Minnawi suggests that these forces, alongside the AMIS would seek to protect civilians and improve security situation in Darfur.

Fresh violence erupts in Sudan's Darfur

(via SudanTribune.com) Sudanese troops killed seven Darfur rebels when fresh fighting erupted in the war-torn western region, a government official told the state-run news agency SUNA.

"The army inflicted heavy losses on the attackers from the National Redemption Front (NRF)," Idriss Abdallah, interim minister of North Darfur state, was quoted as saying.

"Seven rebels were killed, others were captured, four of their vehicles were destroyed and two others seized" during the fighting, which took place Saturday, he added.

Please click on the link below for the full story from Mennonite Central Committee

Fresh violence erupts in Sudan's Darfur

Chad's Deby, rebel chief hold reconciliation talks

(via *SudanTribune.com*) A Chadian rebel leader whose forces attacked the capital N'Djamena in April held a reconciliation meeting with President Idriss Deby on Sunday after breaking with other insurgents, the presidency said.

A presidency official said Mahamat Nour Abdelkerim, who had led the now badly split rebel United Front for Democratic Change (FUC), was received by Deby at Guereda, a town near the eastern border with Sudan which saw recent fierce fighting between the army and rebels.

The one-hour meeting took place "in the framework of the government's open arms policy", the official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

"President Idriss Deby and Mahamat Nour exchanged views on the possibilities of Captain Mahamat Nour returning to the fold (of the government side)," he added, without giving details.

Please click on the link above for the full story
[Chad's Deby, rebel chief hold reconciliation talks](#)

Norwegian Dafur force may be redeployed

(*Xinhua* – 16th Dec. **Stockholm**) The Norwegian Department of Foreign Affairs is open to the possibility of sending the Norwegian force which was meant for Darfur, to another conflict in Africa, said reports reaching here from Oslo on Saturday.

"We are still hoping to send the force to Darfur, but it now looks to be difficult to succeed in forming a UN operation in this region in the near future," Norwegian Broadcasting (NRK) reported, quoting Undersecretary of State Raymond Johansen.

However, he refuses to indicate where the Norwegian soldiers may be sent to, but does not believe it will be a problem to redeploy them.

The Norwegian Defense is presently setting up a force of more than 250 soldiers which is preparing to leave for the war-torn region of Darfur. However, the central government in Khartoum does not want a UN force in the country.

"There are presently UN operations in seven African conflicts. In several of these, Norwegian troops could be of use. Congo, Burundi and Liberia are all conflict spots to where Norwegian troops could be deployed," said Andreas Vogt of the Norwegian Institute of Foreign Policy.

Opposition leaders Erna Solberg of the Conservative Party and Morten Hoeglund, spokesman for the right wing Progress Party, are both critical to a possible redeployment in Africa, according to the NRK.

In Solberg's opinion, the force could be better used in contributing to NATO's operations in Afghanistan.