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(By Public Information Office)

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## **HIGHLIGHTS :**

### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **UN confirms readiness to assist parties to the CPA to spread a culture of peace**

(*SUNA/ el-Wifaq; AlWihda*) The UNMIS officer in charge of public information campaigns has urged the joint media committee of the Parties to the CPA to cooperate with UNMIS' Public Information Office to spread and strengthen the Culture of Peace.

Public Information Officer Jordan Dakamseh assured the *Sudan News Agency (SUNA)* that the UN is committed and prepared to provide the necessary assistance for printing summary versions of the CPA or any other publication that will contribute to increasing awareness towards spreading the feeling of security amongst the people.

Mr. Dakamseh also announced that his office will organise television and radio drama shows for broadcasting over the regional stations on peace, raising awareness on HIV/AIDS and landmines and on returns.

#### **Issues must be settled before UN rights team enters - Sudan**

(*AP/ST; AlSahafa*) Sudan said Sunday that several issues still needed to be settled before it will allow a U.N. human rights, fact-finding mission to visit the war-torn Darfur region.

On Friday, the head of the mission, Nobel laureate and U.S. anti-landmine campaigner Jody Williams said she had expected the Khartoum government to provide the travel clearance in the coming days.

But on Sunday, Sudan's Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadeq said the mission would only be allowed to enter Sudan after it resolves outstanding issues with Khartoum.

"We have consultations going on a number of issues, and when we reach consent on them, the delegation will come to the Sudan. But up to now we have not," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali al-Sadeq. He declined to provide more details.

Khartoum press had earlier reported that the government refused to give the delegation visas and said it had some objections to some of the members of the delegation.

But *AlSahafa* daily reports that some diplomatic sources have warned that the issue of visas to Khartoum for the rights delegation might have negative consequences between Khartoum and the rights body and may even lead to new resolutions against Sudan based on past reports on Darfur.

The sources said they believe the Sudan government intends to drag its feet on the visa issue so that time will run out for the rights team that is also expected to report on the situation in Darfur by 12 March this year.

## **The Transition Debate**

### **Bashir says has confidence in Salim and Eliasson endeavour for solutions to Darfur**

(*AlAyaam*) Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim are expected in the country today on a joint mission aimed at resuming political talks in Darfur and consolidate the DPA.

Ahead of their arrival, President Bashir told visiting former US President Jimmy Carter yesterday that he had much confidence in their endeavours and added that the Sudan is ready for talks with the DPA non-signatory groups on the basis of that agreement.

Sudan's foreign ministry also welcomed the visit that will span until the 17<sup>th</sup> of this month.

## **GoNU**

### **Ministry of Higher Education puts measures in place to curb campus violence**

(*AlAyaam*) A state minister at the Ministry of Higher Education says the ministry has set in place measures to curb campus violence.

Among these, he adds, is the reinforcement of the campus security which will also be given the authority to intervene to stop clashes

He attributed the recent violence witnessed in some varsity campuses in the Khartoum to reflections of the developments in the political arena and to the forthcoming elections.

Meanwhile *Allntibaha* reports that the Students Union of the University of el-Azhari, has held the SPLM responsible for the Thursday violence in the campus.

The president of the students' body has expressed hopes that the law would take its course on the issue but the head of the political affairs division of the students' body has called for revenge for the life of a student who lost his life during the upheaval.

On the other hand, the leadership of the *dabbabeen* and *mujahideen* at the university has vowed revenge on the SPLM.

They have dubbed the murder a gross violation of the CPA and point out that to them, the murder of their colleague means the end of the CPA.

## **Southern Sudan/ GoSS/ SPLM**

### **Pagan Amoum says unsatisfied over SPLM performance**

(*AlSudani*) The SPLM Political and Executive Bureaus (the SPLM Interim National Assembly) will conclude in Yei today their 5 days meetings chaired by First V.P of the Republic, President of GoSS Lt. General Salva Kiir.

Secretary General for the SPLM Pagan Amoum told the press that the SPLM leadership is not satisfied over the movement's performance in both the political and executive organs during the last period.

He added that the public expectations were higher than what have been actually realized on the ground.

Amoum said the meeting had set up a number of resolutions which are to be announced today.

### **2007 dedicated for development in E. Equatoria**

(*ST*) Governor Aloisio Emor Ojetuk says the year 2007 is dedicated to service delivery to the people in the whole state of Eastern Equatoria. Adding that construction of John Garang Memorial Primary school has already started and Macdowell Company of Uganda is contracted to build the modern school.

The Company's manager, Ms. Amony Filder, said they will build six class rooms at cost of about four million US dollars and that the work started last year on 24th December. However contacted government officials from ministries of education and finance could either refute or accept Ms. Amony Filder stated contract value.

However, earlier, Juma Dino, concerned citizen of the state said the contract was at four million dollars and that it was coordinated from top level of GoSS to the state.

Meanwhile another company, Life Services International from Kenya was constructed to drill three boreholes along Torit- Juba road at Langairo, Kor English and Jebel Gutun at the cost of 36,000 US dollars, approved by state council of minister in December last year but the company manager, Bethuel Kimani said they only signed for 33,000 US dollars.

### **Uganda, South Sudan ink military cooperation deal**

(*New Vision*) Uganda and South Sudan have agreed to cooperate on security and conduct joint military exercises. According to an agreement signed on Friday, the UPDF shall provide training for the SPLA either in Uganda or in South Sudan.

“The two armies shall engage in military cooperation through joint operations, combating of proliferation of illegal small arms and fighting international terrorism,” the pact states.

It also says that their security organisations shall cooperate through sharing information and other agreed forms of collaboration. They will carry out joint patrols along the Nimule–Juba road.

A commission to coordinate cooperation will be established. They will also look for financial and technical assistance for the construction of a railway line from Pakwach to Juba via Yei and from Gulu to Juba via Nimule.

The countries agreed to upgrade major roads linking them and ensure smooth operations of air transport. Telephone, postal and information communication services will be provided.

The Uganda Police will train their southern Sudan counterparts and the same will apply to the judiciary and the finance departments.

Ugandan education, financial and health experts will be sent to South Sudan to build capacity. Sudanese students will gain admission into Ugandan institutions. Common policies will be instituted to facilitate trade, investment and streamline taxation.

On immigration, they agreed to remove obstacles to free movement. The deal states that Uganda shall supply South Sudan with foodstuff and construction materials.

The pact was signed by the South Sudan minister for Regional Cooperation, Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin and Uganda's foreign affairs minister, Sam Kuteesa.

The seven-man Sudanese delegation also met President Yoweri Museveni at State House and affirmed their support for Juba as the venue for the peace talks.

### **S. Sudan promises priority to Uganda's private sector**

*(Daily Monitor)* The Government of Southern Sudan has said that priority will be given to Uganda's private sector to trade in their country because of the long-time bond they have shared over the years.

This follows the signing of a bilateral cooperation agreement on February 8, which will cater for issues such as trade, health, education and peace among others between the two countries.

Speaking in a meeting with Ugandan private sector agencies in Kampala on February 8, the Southern Sudanese Regional Cooperation Minister, Barnabas Benjamin Marial, said: "Signing the cooperation agreement is an official kick off to relate with you. Even then, a lot of trade has been going between Uganda and Southern Sudan despite the negative stories that you have heard."

Earlier in the meeting, the Ugandan private sector actors requested for clarifications from the Southern Sudan delegation about the alleged attacks on Ugandan traders, the

expensive accommodation, high taxes, multiple currencies, land and immigration control policies.

Marial regretted the attacks but said people who did not want peace to return to the region were responsible for the attacks. "We promise you that those who did these atrocities if caught will be brought to book," he said.

He said the region was destroyed completely; there is no infrastructure on the ground, which calls for massive development to cater for the market of 12 million people in the region.

"We need virtually everything and it is now the local Ugandan businessmen who feed us in Juba and I am happy to note that you can now find the Bell Beer, Rwenzori mineral water among other manufactured goods deep in the villages of Southern Sudan," Mr Marial said.

## Darfur/ DPA

### **Minnawi accuses S. Darfur governor for dropping SLM nominees**

*(Rai AlShaab)* Minnawi has accused Governor Atta-el-Mannan of South Darfur of dropping some SLM nominees from the region's legislative assembly and putting in names that had not been agreed upon with the Presidency of the Republic.

In a letter to the governor, Minnawi underlined the need to disclose the names of all nominees who were dropped from membership of the legislative body and said those who made the changes should explain.

*Rai AlShaab* also reports in another story of a possible split within SLM-Minnawi. The paper quotes sources as claiming that the movement may split into three factions because some disgruntled members have been complaining of Minnawi's highhanded manner of dealing with issues.

The paper adds however that a leading member of the movement rebuffed these reports of an imminent split.

### **Greater SLM threatens strike against government positions**

*(Rai AlShaab)* The Greater SLM has uncovered its political and military structure and said it will be carrying out military strikes on some sensitive targets of the central government in places outside Darfur.

The movement says its primary task is to overthrow the government through military means and that it will not honour any of the ceasefire agreement signed. It has also warned civilians to be vigilant and keep away from military and security targets.

According to a statement issued by the movement, a meeting it held between 3 January to 3 February this year has culminated in the formation of its political and military structures and has named Adam Fadul Abu-Jihaiza its leader.

### **Strikes in S. Kordofan and Darfur**

(*AlRai AlAam*) Workers in education, health, water and electricity utilities in S. Kordofan State have gone yesterday on an open strike because of delayed salaries.

The spokesperson of S. Kordofan Worker Union, Hussein Ahmed Salih, said that every worker who doesn't receive his/her salary has the right to stop working.

### **Minnawi group opens random fire in Omdurman**

(*AlSudani*) An armed group affiliated to SLM-Minnawi opened random fire yesterday in el Muhandiseen in Omdurman raising chaos and panic among the civilians.

Head of el Muhandisin Popular Committee said that sound of gunfire was heard after *Meghrib* (sunset) prayers in Muhandisin.

He attributed the reason to an argument among 3 SLM-Minnawi armed men who live in the area.

### **14 children and women killed in ambush in Darfur**

(*AlRai AlAam*) Unidentified armed men opened fire yesterday in W. Darfur killing 5 women and injuring 8 others while they were in their way from Seleaa to the Sirba area.

The National Assembly member for Kalbas area told *AlRai AlAam* that the government of W. Darfur State had sent the injured to hospital.

He described the African Union role as being passive and called for more power to the African Union to enable it to play its role.

### **CAR, Chad, Sudan to meet at France-Africa summit**

(*AFP/ST*) The leaders of Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) are to hold a mini-summit at this week's France-Africa summit in a bid to improve deteriorating relations, Sudanese media said Sunday.

"President Omar al-Bashir will head the Sudan delegation," the official SUNA news agency reported, adding that the mini-summit would seek to "soothe the atmosphere of relations between these three countries."

The France-Africa summit is to take place from Wednesday to Friday.

## **Other Developments**

### ***AlWatan* senior reporters released**

(*AlWatan*) Two members of the *AlWatan* editorial team arrested for interviewing last week two members of a group that claims responsibility for the bomb threat to the UNMIS and the US Embassy were released yesterday.

The competent authorities have however ordered the paper shut down for two days with effect from tomorrow.

Investigations are still ongoing and authorities are also interrogating the photographer who took snaps of the two “masked men” (one of whom has been arrested and is being interrogated).

*AlWatan's* legal advisor says that the paper will push for an appeal of the 2-day closure on the grounds that investigations into the issue are still going on and that such a decision will affect the course of the investigations.