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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies

Foreign ministry asks Eliasson and Salim to bring Darfur movements to the talks

(*Rai AlShaab*) Ambassador Ali el-Sadiq, spokesperson for the foreign ministry, has called on envoys Eliasson and Salim to bring the Darfur movements together in order to facilitate talks between these movements and the government.

The spokesperson expressed hopes that Chadian and Libyan efforts to reactivate the negotiations would be successful.

On the US's "Plan B" on Darfur, the spokesperson said that the Sudan will not be intimidated by US threats.

Meningitis outbreak spreads in south Sudan - WHO

(*Reuters/ST*) A meningitis outbreak that has swept through southern Sudan since January has continued to spread, killing 172 people, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Saturday.

"Last year we had just under 5,000 cases but only in four states, now it has spread further into eight states already," said Philippe Verstraeten, at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Sudan.

Nearly 1,800 cases of infection have been identified since the beginning of the year.

In another development, *The Citizen* reports that the Ministry of Health launched talks yesterday with the WHO on Sudan's plans on integrating treatment of childhood diseases and immunisation against polio.

Also discussed were measures to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates.

Minister Tabitha Buotrours who headed the Sudanese side to the talks lauded the WHO on especially its logistics aid to control haemorrhagic fever in S. Kordofan.

Click on the link below for the full text of this Reuters story
[Meningitis outbreak spreads in south Sudan - WHO](#)

FAO warns of new wave of locust attack in Eritrea, Sudan

(Rai AlShaab) In a statement issued yesterday, the FAO has warned of the looming threat of a new wave of locust attack on the Red Sea coast and the Gulf of Aden.

The statement said there are reports that the swarms of locust are on the increase in Eritrea due to the unusually heavy rains and other favourable conditions.

ICRC sees "gross violations" by all sides in Darfur

(Reuters/ST) The head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) warned on Friday that growing insecurity jeopardised its aid operations in Sudan's Darfur region, where it is often alone in addressing massive needs.

Jakob Kellenberger, speaking after a five-day trip to Sudan which included stops in Darfur, also said all sides of the conflict were committing human rights violations against civilians.

Kellenberger said he stressed to all parties of the four-year-old conflict that the agency needed a safe environment to continue its life-saving work.

Kellenberger said the greatest insecurity and therefore its greatest access problems were in Kutum, Jebel Marra, Nyala, Gereida and to the far west along the border.

Kellenberger, a former senior Swiss diplomat, declined to comment on the need for U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur, but said action was needed to improve the security environment.

Both government and rebel authorities had "clear responsibilities" to uphold international humanitarian law and protect civilians and aid workers, he said.

On the ICC, Kellenberger said ICRC officials would not testify to the international court on atrocities in Darfur, in keeping with its neutral role in armed conflicts.

The ICRC plans to seek an additional \$30 million from donors after taking over a camp of 120,000 displaced people near Gereida, he said. This followed the evacuation of other agencies last December after an attack on a house used by ICRC staff.

This would bring the ICRC's budget this year for Sudan, its largest humanitarian operation worldwide, to \$90 million.

Meanwhile and as news reports indicate that the ICC will release names of suspects to Darfur crimes next Tuesday, Sudan's defence minister countered by saying that the country will not hand over any suspect to the ICC.

Speaking at a press conference at the Sudanese Embassy in Abu Dhabi, the Sudanese minister said that the international court had no jurisdiction to try war crimes in Darfur.

Click on the links below for the full text of the above and related stories

[ICRC sees "gross violations" by all sides in Darfur](#)

[Red Cross would never testify in Darfur war crimes trial](#)

[Sudan excludes handling of Darfur crimes suspects](#)

Dr. Lam Akol receives letter from D/Secretary-General Migiro

(Alwan, 23 Feb.) Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro has expressed her satisfaction over the support the Sudan has shown her as she embarked on her new duties. She said she looked forward to more cooperation between the Sudan government and the United Nations in issues of mutual interest.

The letter was in response to an earlier letter by Sudan's foreign minister congratulating the Deputy Secretary-General on her assuming her new duties.

Courts order arrest of suspects who forged African Union papers to smuggle

(Rai AlShaab) The courts have issued arrest warrants for suspects who used forged African Union papers to smuggle stuff into the country.

The suspects used forged AMIS papers to smuggle containers laden with what they recorded as "foodstuffs" from Egypt.

The European Commission has issued a statement (attached) calling for respect for international humanitarian law by all parties in Sudan conflict.

The Transition Debate

Next two to three months will see launch of second phase of support package, says foreign ministry spokesperson

(AlHayat) A spokesperson for Sudan's foreign ministry says the Sudan government, the UN and the African Union are proceeding ahead with the implementation of the UN support package to the African Union.

Ambassador Ali el-Sadiq said that the first phase went on smoothly with the exception of some hitches such as problems of accommodation, transportation and customs clearance but then the parties managed to resolve all these problems.

Of the next phase, he said that the UN will meet the 54 million dollars cost for implementation of phase two of the package that will involve use of between 400 to 500 UN advisors and will begin in the next two to three months.

CPA

SPLM accuses National Congress Party of trying to derail peace in S. Kordofan

(Rai AlShaab) The SPLM's S. Kordofan chapter has accused the National Congress Party of plotting violations of the CPA and sowing sedition against the SPLM in order to cover for their "crimes" committed in the state.

A statement issued by the SPLM said that these plots have caused the death of two SPLA soldiers in Fama and injuries to a soldier in Kadugli and many other problems to SPLM/A members in the state.

The SPLM vowed it will not relent in the implementation of the CPA and will strongly respond to all those who seek to target the SPLM or derail the National Congress Party.

SPLM/A in new bid to bring SSDF on board

(Alwan) Some members of the SPLM engaged Mjr. Gen. el-Toum Daldoum in intensive talks last Friday in a bid to bring him within the folds of the SPLA.

An SPLM delegation also held talks in Wau on Friday with representatives of the Sudan Peace Forces for the same reasons.

GoNU

Chairman of Darfur authority to visit Libya

(ST) The Senior Assistant Presidential and Chairman of the Interim Authority of Darfur, Minni Arkoi Minawi, will leave next Wednesday 28 February for Libya to attend celebrations marking the establishment of the People's Rule, scheduled for 2 March.

In Libya, Minnawi is expected to hold talks with Libyan officials on Libyan and Eritrean efforts to help find a lasting peace in Darfur. There are expectations he might meet with DPA non-signatories.

Sudan's FM accused of supporting Upper Nile militia

(Juba Post) The minister of foreign affairs, Lam Akol, has been accused of supporting a militia in Upper Nile State, southern Sudan. SPLM chairman Salva Kiir Mayardit has passed a decree to form a committee to investigate accusations from within the SPLM.

Kiir announced the formation of the Upper Nile Investigation Committee last Tuesday, 20 February. The committee will be chaired by Kosta Manibi. Also Anne Itto is a member together with Peter Bashir Ghandi as the secretary. Ms Akon Bol Akool and Nartisio Lolike Mani are members.

According to the presidential spokesman, the committee has to investigate the validity of the allegations raised during the meeting of the Interim National Council against Lam Akol Ajawin. They have in particular to find out the truth behind allegations that he is a leader and financier of the Modern Southern Front and that he is undermining the work of the SPLM in Upper Nile State.

The decree says: "The committee is hereby directed to finalize its work within one month as from 19 February 2007. The SPLM secretary general and SPLM secretary general of the Upper Nile State are thereby directed to facilitate the work of the committee."

The decree by the chairman of the SPLM comes while more and more people in the SPLM-top, are unhappy with the performance of Lam Akol as minister of foreign affairs .

He is regarded as too docile towards the ruling National Congress party of President Al-Bashir. His acceptance of the stand against the UN intervention in Darfur is for many SPLM party members unacceptable.

Khartoum State Offer Incentive for Those Who Voluntary Handover Arms

(SMC) The Assistant to Khartoum Police Commissioner Gen Mohammed Najeeb Al Tayeb confirms that police would carry out an effective disarmament plan within Khartoum State.

The Assistant Commissioner urged militias and citizen to hand over arms voluntary. He said those who will hand their weapons voluntary would be paid financial incentive

“Arbitrarily Discharged” civil servants threaten to dump Sudanese nationality

(Sudan Tribune) “Arbitrarily Discharged” persons constituting those from the civil and military service have threatened to give up their Sudanese nationality and submit their national documents to the UN.

Their chairman says they will boycott both the population census and the forthcoming elections and have decided to stage state-wide sit-ins and a sit-in next Tuesday before the Republican Palace to submit a memorandum to the President of the Republic urging him to reactivate resolutions he issued so as to reinstate them and to repeal the dismissals.

If stopped by the police from proceeding with their processions or sit-ins, they will denounce their Sudanese nationality, says Awad el-Karim.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS/SPLM

"Thousands of guns" surrendered in southern Sudan state

(*Alwan, SRS via BBC Monitoring, 23 Feb.; Alwan*) The Deputy Governor in Rumbek has disclosed that authorities have retrieved over 4,000 guns from civilians throughout the state in what is seen as the largest disarmament exercise since the CPA.

Speaking to Sudan Radio Service from Rumbek on Wednesday, Lakes Director of Information James Magok said that people in Rumbek are happy with the disarmament process because "it is going to stop insecurity in the area." Mr. Magok was speaking during the celebration of the disarmament exercise, which started last year.

Governor Daniel Awet said the disarmament process is not yet over and said that any civilian found with a gun will be charged and could go to prison for up to five years. The display of the guns collected during the disarmament was witnessed by the Governor of Lakes, all the state ministers, area chiefs and others.

Unity State to Assist Returning IDPs

(*SRS*) The Government of Unity State says it will assist its internally displaced persons, or IDP's, living outside the state to return home before the upcoming population census.

Speaking to Sudan Radio Service last week in Panyijiar County, County Commissioner Joseph Nhial said that the state government is providing transport to IDP's returning from Khartoum and other places in southern Sudan.

Mr. Nhial said the state government will not be able to return refugees living in other countries back to the state to be counted during the census exercise because the United Nations Refugee's Agency, UNHCR, is responsible for their repatriation.

He said two centers have been opened in the county to receive returnees, which will enable NGO's to access them with humanitarian aid

Western Equatoria parliament removes State Governor

(*ST*) The Western Equatoria state assembly voted, in an unprecedented move on Tuesday 20 February, to oust the incumbent Governor Lt Gen. Samuel Abujohn, a press release stated.

The move came after the stalemate in Western Equatoria State which has been going on for about six months now since the appointment of the new Governor in a controversial decree last September 2006. The former governor Patrick Zamoi had been suspended on 16 June 2006 over allegations of corruption and incitement to tribal conflict.

Governor Abujhon was ousted by the State parliament "because of incompetence and a series of failures." The decision was taken by the state lawmakers during debate on the bill of finances for 2007, on 20 February.

Abujhon was at odds with the local cabinet and was often absent from his office and delaying the function of the institutions of the state.

Click on the link below for the full story

[Western Equatoria parliament removes State Governor](#)

LRA refuses to renew ceasefire agreement

(The Monitor) The Lord's Resistance Army says it would not endorse an extension of the truce with the Uganda government that expires on 28 February, further dashing hopes of reviving the stalled talks.

They also said that their soldiers have left the two designated assembly points in southern Sudan for fear for their safety.

Lord's Resistance Army deputy commander Vincent Oti pointed out that they have not seen any tangible benefits since signing the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement six months ago and renewing it in December.

Oti's announcement came hours before Ruhukana Rugunda, head of the Uganda government delegation, told parliament that Kampala was ready to review the accord ahead of the 28 February expiry deadline.

Uganda, South Sudan in land row

(Xinhua – 24 Feb. Kampala) The government of southern Sudan has claimed that Uganda has encroached on its land bordering Moyo District in northern Uganda, according to report of state-owned New Vision on Saturday.

The paper said southern Sudan officials on Wednesday met their Ugandan counterparts at Logoba, about 10 kilometers inside Uganda from the disputed border post of Jale, to protest the construction of a road and a border post allegedly inside Sudan.

The two parties both vowed to forward the matter to the highest level after the meeting failed to yield any results.

The Sudanese officials led by Kajo-Keji county commissioner Oliver Mule included elders and Sudanese People's Liberation Army commanders and police officers.

They demanded an apology from Uganda for encroaching on their land and wanted that the road project be halted immediately.

Kajo-keji executive secretary Kennedy Kenyi demanded that the road contract agreement be handed to the Sudanese authorities since the land allegedly belongs to them.

The Ugandan team was led by acting Resident District Commissioner of Moyo, Reuben Mutabazi.

"The road we are repairing, according to the GPS (Global Positioning System), is one-and-a-half miles way from the border and we are convinced that we are working in Uganda," said Moyo District engineer John Achiga Chaiga.

"I cannot by any means give the contract agreement to another country's authorities," he added.

The road under construction funded by African Development Bank and the Ugandan government was aimed at creating easy transportation and movements of farm produce as a way of increasing household income through trade.

Commissioner Mule said they had deployed in the area to stop any extension of the road into their territory. Ugandan security sources confirmed that southern Sudan had deployed along the 13 kilometers road to stop the works.

"We also have our consultants in Kenya who came to Jale hills and told us that Uganda had encroached on our land by six miles at Logoba," Kenyi claimed.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Sudan subjected to fierce media distortion, disinformation campaign - Al-Bashir

(*SUNA via BBC Monitoring, 23 Feb.*) President of the Republic Field Marshal Omar al-Bashir has said that Sudan was subjected to fierce media distortion and disinformation campaign so that the American people would not know the reality of the situation in the country.

Addressing Friday [23 February] the worshippers at the mosque of Detroit city in the US after Friday Prayer through video conference, President Al-Bashir said the Sudanese people are people from Africa working to obtain decent life and like other peoples they face challenges and problems they strive to solve through dialogue and negotiations.

President Al-Bashir referred to the peace agreement which ended the war in South Sudan which lasted for more than 50 years and the Cairo understanding reached with the opposition and the East Sudan Peace Agreement, which was signed in Asmara. President Al-Bashir also cited the Darfur Peace Agreement which was concluded in Abuja with European and American support and which was described by the representatives of the UN, Europe and US and the Security Council as good agreement.

He added that all those allowed a group of rebels to reject the agreement and oppose it by arms. Despite this, the government agreed to sit with those who opposed the agreement which was adopted by the international community, the president noted, pointing out that the rebel movements have continued their aggressions. President Al-Bashir pointed that instead of taking firm stance that makes these movements sit for talks to reach comprehensive and durable solutions, but many governments including the government of the USA exercise unjust pressures on the government to accept arrangements that does not respect Sudan's sovereignty.

SLM-Minnawi denies reports on splits

(*Rai AlShaab*) SLM-Minnawi has refuted reports of a recent split within its ranks and confirms it is still in control of Haskanita and Muhajiriya areas that a “splinter group” claimed control of over the weekend.

The movement accuses parties it declined to name of nurturing such rumours in a bid to obstruct the peace process.

Rai AlShaab had reported yesterday that a new splinter group from the SLM going by the name National Sudan Liberation Movement for Peace and Development had claimed control over Muhajiriya, Haskanita, Labado and Adeela and declared them “liberated territories” and said no SLA-Minnawi soldier was in those areas.

The report said that the movement had named a certain Ibrahim el-Tayeb Ibrahim as its official field spokesperson and had attributed its shift of allegiance to “marginalisation” of the people of eastern Darfur in the movement.

El-Mezni underscores importance of the media role in consolidating Darfur peace

(*Alwan, 23 Feb.*) The African Union has welcomed efforts at coordinating media plans and the push for a unified and integrated plan for peace.

Spokesperson Noureldin Mezni said following a meeting of the joint media committee for the implementation of peace in Darfur held at the *SUNA* offices yesterday that the committee has set out to work in a positive and transparent spirit and with the view that the main focus is on realising peace for the people of Darfur and on bringing them to participate in the peace process.

Sudan, Chad pledge to respect each other's sovereignty

(*JANA via BBC Monitoring, 21 Feb.*) A statement issued at the end of the four-party meeting between presidents Gadhaffi, Affewerki, Bashir and Debe concluded with the following on relations between Sudan and Chad [*as reported by JANA*]:

- 1- Both Chad and Sudan reiterate their full commitment to the Tripoli agreement which was signed on 8 February 2006 and they pledge to implement it fully.
- 2- The two countries' governments pledge to respect each other's sovereignty, not to interfere in each other's domestic affairs, to refrain from engaging in hostile activities towards each other and to act to fully restore their relations.
- 3- The summit decided to set up a joint committee chaired by the Great Jamahiriya and the State of Eritrea and with the participation of Chad and Sudan. The committee will identify its tasks and prerogatives and will immediately start its work.

Chad hesitant over deployment of international forces on its eastern borders

(*AlSahafa*) Chad has expressed some reserve over the idea of the deployment of a UN military presence on its eastern borders with the Sudan.

A report to that effect which will be discussed before the Security Council next Tuesday said that Chad has requested more detailed information on the UN plan and has not shown any acceptance despite sustained pressures from the UN and other western states.

A UN assessment team to Chad led by Hedi Annabi is supported to report back to the Security Council on Tuesday.

But *Alwan* daily of 23 February cites “Agencies” as quoting Chad’s foreign minister as saying that Chad had indeed formally requested the UN to deploy troops on its border regions with the CAR and the Sudan in order to protect refugees fleeing the fighting in the Darfur region.

Speaking to Radio Sawa, the Chadian foreign minister said that the country’s president had sent a message to that effect to the UN Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council. He stressed that these forces will not be hostile to any state but will be there to keep the peace.

The foreign minister said that Chad was waiting to see which troop contributing countries will come along for such a force before proceeding ahead to sign a formal agreement allowing such a deployment.

SPLM in Nyala calls for comprehensive reconciliation

(*AlAyaam*) In its attempts to spread out in the north, a high rank delegation of the SPLM led by Yassir Erman has embarked on a tour of Darfur and will also be preparing the ground for VP Kiir’s visit to the region.

In Nyala, the governor warned that a deployment of international troops to the region will fiercely be rejected by the tribes in the region. He welcomed the SPLM delegation and called for a political as well as an executive partnership between the National Congress Party and the SPLM.

The SPLM on its part called for comprehensive reconciliation in order to realise true peace in the region.