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(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

- **UN/ Agencies**
 - WFP disposes of 365 mt of food aid in South Darfur
- **The Transition Debate**
 - AU, UN, Sudan discuss deployment of additional experts in Darfur
- **CPA**
 - Nafei and Pagan to prepare for Bashir, Kiir talks
 - Cattle raiders kill 11 people in southern Sudan
- **GoNU**
 - SAF and PDF elements to face trial over Darfur crimes, says justice minister
 - Security authorities to carry out simulation searches in the capital
- **Southern Sudan/ GoSS/SPLM**
 - Workers in southern Sudan strike over pay
 - SPLM delegation enters IDP camps in Darfur; embraces IDPs
- **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement**
 - As Darfur violence spills into Chad, UN weighs deploying force
 - Deaths and injuries in renewed Turgum, Rizeigat clashes in S. Darfur
 - JEM to hold general conference in two months
 - AbdulWahid says partial agreements would not solve the Darfur crisis

HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies

WFP disposes of 365 mt of food aid in South Darfur

(*WFP Nyala, S. Darfur*) Starting on 21 February, World Food Programme (WFP) began the disposal of 365 metric tons of mixed food commodities that were damaged and unfit for human consumption, the WFP said in a press release.

The disposal is part of normal operations. The commodities currently being disposed of were not discovered and seized by authorities, but rather they were identified by WFP as having been damaged during transport to South Darfur and were therefore unfit to be distributed to beneficiaries.

The disposal was planned in advance with the full knowledge and participation of the authorities. A Disposal Committee made up of representatives from WFP, the Ministry of Health, the Humanitarian Aid Commission, the Environmental Department and the Police are observing the process.

[This story has featured in the front pages of some newspapers such as the Khartoum Monitor and Rai AlShaab that have both quoted extensively from the WFP statement]

Please refer also to the full text of the WFP statement in separate attachment

The Transition Debate

AU, UN, Sudan discuss deployment of additional experts in Darfur

(*ST; the local press*) Sudan said that negotiations are going on with the African Union and the UN to implement the second phase of the UN support to the African troops in Darfur, the foreign ministry said that this phase includes between 400 to 500 experts and technicians.

The ministry of foreign affairs has announced that work on the first support package provided by the UN to the African Union troops in Darfur is about to be completed and that the members of the tripartite mechanism, including the government of Sudan, are in the process of discussing the second package ahead of its implementation.

Ambassador Ali el-Sadiq says government will accept any number of international troops for Darfur as long as it is part of the consultations

The spokesman for the ministry of foreign affairs, Ali al-Sadiq, said in press statements yesterday that the three sides would implement the second package after it was approved. He said the second package would cost 45m dollars which the UN had pledged to provide.

The spokesperson further said he hoped the recent Tripoli summit would be a step to reaching a solution in Darfur and said he expected Libya and Chad to play a valuable role in making negotiations successful.

He pointed out that the two remaining AU troop support packages would be dispensed with if an agreement was reached and if those opposed to the Abuja agreement joined the peace process.

The three-phase plan agreed in Addis Ababa on 16 November 2006 between the AU, UN and the Sudan. The third phase is expected to see the deployment of 17,000 troops and 3,000 police officers. Sudan, however, stressed that any U.N. role in Darfur under the plan is limited to technical and logistical support of the African Union forces with no peacekeeping powers.

But *Rai AlShaab* daily quotes Ambassador Ali el-Sadiq, as saying in the press statement in the wake of a meeting of the tripartite mechanism on the 3rd phase of the support package, that this phase comes in order to overcome UN Security Council Resolution 1706 and in order to solve the problems faced by the AMIS in Darfur in terms of financial and technical support especially after the consultations in Addis Ababa that resolved to extend the AMIS mandate in Darfur.

The ambassador reportedly said that the Sudan will not object to the number of UN forces that the tripartite mechanism decides upon as long as the Sudan government is party to such consultations. *Alwan* adds to this that Ambassador Ali el-Sadiq who was present at a meeting yesterday between Saeed Djinnit and state minister for foreign affairs AlSammani told the press that the tripartite mechanism will embark on a tour of the Darfur region to assess the required numbers of military personnel, experts and advisors on the basis of the expected risks and the nature of the Darfur region.

On arrangements for the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur, the foreign ministry spokesperson said that there is a conviction within the Sudan government that improvements in the humanitarian situation is the basis for success in any talks and this, he adds, is what the parties seek to achieve.

Commissioner Djinnit optimistic over the peace process for Darfur

In yet another story, *Alwan* daily reports that African Union Peace & Security Council Commissioner Saeed Djinnit expressed optimism that the coming few weeks will be crucial to the peace process in Darfur.

Mr. Djinnit told reporters following separate meetings yesterday with, among others, VP Taha, Majzoub el-Khalifa and state minister AlWaseela, that he had invited the Sudan to support the mission of envoys Eliasson and Salim. He also said that the African Union is determined to play its basic role in realising peace in Darfur and committing to what the three parties agreed upon in Addis Ababa and Abuja and especially with regards cooperation and transparency.

VP Taha says government to provide enabling environment for AMIS

On his part, VP Taha said following the meeting that Saeed Djinnit noted government commitments and keenness to continue dialogue with the Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory groups and to bring them on board to a comprehensive agreement that will meet aspirations of the people of Darfur. The Vice-President said that the government will on its part see to it that there is an enabling environment for the African Union to carry out its functions.

Taha also called on the African Union to intensify its efforts and send a strong message to the non-signatories to stop the killing in order to reach a peaceful settlement to the crisis. He asserted government cooperation with the UN as the latter seeks to provide logistic and technical assistance to the African Union.

Government has sent to the UN its written response on observations with regards to phase 3 of the support package, Majzoub el-Khalifa says

Majzoub el-Khalifa told the press that his meeting with Commissioner Djinnit focussed also on the consolidation of peace in Darfur and on the resolutions of the four-party summit meeting in Tripoli.

He said some positive developments have occurred in terms of overcoming UN Security Council Resolution 1706 and pointed out that the call at the moment is for strengthening the African Union instead of on the deployment of an international force. He expressed optimism that the African Union will spearhead the peace process for Darfur and that its terms of reference will be the agreements signed.

El-Khalifa revealed that government has sent its written response to the UN on its observations with regards the third phase of the support package.

Click on the link below for a related story from the SudanTribune.com
[AU says determined to play its "basic role" for Darfur peace](#)

CPA

Nafei and Pagan to prepare for Bashir, Kiir talks

(AlSudani) Among issues to be discussed at a forthcoming meeting next week of the parties to the CPA are: the Abyei boundary, the North-South boundaries and Other Armed Groups, says Dr. Mustapha Osman Ismail, a key member of the National Congress Party.

He also reveals that Nafei Ali Nafei and Pagan Amoum will head their respective sides to talks to prepare for talks next week between President Bashir and Vice-President Kiir on these issues.

Cattle raiders kill 11 people in southern Sudan

(SRS via BBC Monitoring, 26 Feb.) Despite an ongoing disarmament in Jonglei State, cattle raiders believed to be from Pibor have killed 11 people and taken an estimated 2,000 heads of cattle from Akobo County in separate attacks.

Speaking to Sudan Radio Service on phone from Akobo on Friday [23 February], the Akobo County Commissioner Doyak Chol said that nine people were killed in several cattle raids carried out in the last two weeks.

Commissioner Chol said SPLA security forces are being deployed in the area to prevent further cattle raids in Akobo county.

GoNU

SAF and PDF elements to face trial over Darfur crimes, says justice minister

(AlSudani et al) Prosecutory AbdelDayem Zumrawi reports that some SAF and PDF elements will face trial before the special courts on Darfur crimes in West Darfur. The courts have issued arrest warrants to suspects in this case over the incident in Dilleij, W. Darfur.

Zumrawi answered in the negative when asked on whether these suspects have anything to do with the list of 51 names before the ICC.

He also revealed that there is much progress in the investigations into the incidents in Shattaya, Kutum, Milliet, Kulbus and Totala in Darfur and that 105 suspects have so far been arrested in connection to the Shattaya incident and pointed out that these people will be brought before a criminal court and not a military one.

He also pointed out that teams from the ICC have been coming into the region at different times to assess the process.

Security authorities to carry out simulation searches in the capital

(AlSahafa) The General Directorate of Security Police, in collaboration with the other security organs, carried out simulation searches in the national capital in what the chief of the security police described as a means to raise their capacities, field training and to assess their preparedness and efficiency in dealing with any security incident.

He said in statements to the press in Khartoum yesterday that the exercise was conducted within the framework of a comprehensive security plan aimed at instilling a sense of security within the population. He said that such exercises shall continue in different times and conditions to fine-tune the plan.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Interior has dispatched 1,000 elements from the Central Reserve Forces to beef up security in West Darfur.

On the other hand, a high rank security officer speaking to the *SMC* refuted recent media reports of a visit to Khartoum by a CIA delegation.

He said that cooperation of Sudanese security with the US in areas such as counter-terrorism, money laundering, cross-border crimes and all forms of organised crime as brought forth good fruits.

Other Headlines:

- Authorities have earmarked the sum of \$103 million for the forthcoming National Population Census (*AlWihda*)
- A number of citizens were injured in a row over the el-Moulid Square in Khartoum South (*AlAyaam*)
- The Constitution Review Commission has embarked on drafting of the Lands Law (*Rai AlShaab*)
- Iranian leader Ahmedi Nijad Is expected in Khartoum next Wednesday (*AlRai AlAam*)

Southern Sudan/ GoSS/SPLM

Workers in southern Sudan strike over pay

(*SRS via BBC Monitoring, 26 Feb.*) Government officials and workers in Malakal in Upper Nile State are on strike, demanding to be paid their salaries and wages for January and February.

A source in Malakal told Sudan Radio Service last Friday [23 February] that the strike began on Thursday and that the workers' trade union was threatening to prolong the strike if salaries are not paid.

The workers' trade union issued a statement saying that the strikers are also protesting a salary cut of 40 percent. The Upper Nile state government is reported to have said that the money it received from the Government of Southern Sudan in Juba is not enough to pay all the state workers' salaries.

Malakal Hospital is said to be worst affected by the strike. Some state leaders expressed fear that that students may take to the streets if teachers are not paid their salaries, as happened in Kadugli last week.

SPLM delegation enters IDP camps in Darfur; embraces IDPs

(*AlAyaam*) An SPLM delegation led by Yassir Arman has managed to break the ice between IDPs and government officials and entered Direij IDP camp in South Darfur that houses over 31,000 IDPs and Attash camp.

The IDPs turned up in the thousands to receive the SPLM delegation.

Arman told the IDPs that the SPLM backs their demands for compensation and unification of the three states of Darfur and supports the push for the deployment of an international force to the region. Arman added that they support an international force deployment not as a challenge to the National Congress Party but for the protection of the civilian population in the region.

The SPLM delegation, under heavy military escort, then held talks with government officials in Nyala on a number of issues where they traded accusations but in a democratic climate.

Other Headlines:

- SPLM spreads its wings to establish structures in River Nile state (*Rai AlShaab*)
- Kiir forms committee to investigate on allegations of Dr. Akol support to militias (*AlSudani*)

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

As Darfur violence spills into Chad, UN weighs deploying force

(AP/ST) Tribal leaders and local officials in Chad are pushing hard for a U.N. peacekeeping force to be deployed to stop violence and protect refugees spilling over from desperate Darfur into next-door Sudan.

But the U.N. chief has warned such a force would face "serious risks" of rebel attack and Chad's president also has concerns about such a force — raising further complications to international hopes of ending Darfur's expanding disaster.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the Security Council last week that the volatile situation along the Chad-Sudan border could endanger any peacekeepers put into Chad to protect Darfur refugees and to lower tensions between the two countries.

The Security Council is considering forming such a mission, largely because Sudan's government has stymied efforts to put U.N. peacekeepers into Darfur itself.

Local leaders in eastern Chad hope such a force arrives soon, even though Chad's president has expressed concerns such a force could inflame tensions and instead has pushed for a U.N. civilian force, according to Ban.

The region's governor, Atom Dillo, also said the U.N. force was necessary to stop Sudanese infiltration into Chad, which he said was part of Sudan's strategy to destabilize its neighbor and prevent aid workers from helping the 230,000 refugees who have fled to Chad from Darfur.

Chad's President Idriss Deby has accepted in principle the idea of a U.N. mission on his border, but Western officials in Chad say he is wary that some Security Council members, mainly the U.S., might use the force as a starting point for a deployment into Darfur.

The Chadian army is trying to protect the Darfur refugee camps but can't do much because it needs to focus on protecting the border, said Gen. Kalimi Sangui Abdalla, who commands Chadian military operations on the eastern border.

"This is why we will welcome United Nations forces," he said.

Click on the link below for the full text of this story

[As Darfur violence spills into Chad, UN weighs deploying force](#)

Deaths and injuries in renewed Turgum, Rizeigat clashes in S. Darfur

(Rai AlShaab) Renewed clashes between Turgum and Rizeigat tribesmen of Kass, South Darfur, has left a number of deaths and injuries and loss of cattle to looters.

These renewed clashes come just 72 hours after a reconciliation conference of the two tribes was concluded.

JEM to hold general conference in two months

(Rai AlShaab) A high rank member of the JEM-Peace Wing has revealed of the movement's intentions to turn into a political party and said the movement will launch a conference within the next two months to that effect.

The official pointed out that this was one of those issues required for the success of the democratic process and is one of the requirements of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

AbdulWahid says partial agreements would not solve the Darfur crisis

(AlAyaam) AbdulWahid has strongly warned the government that partial solutions will not work for the Darfur crisis. He accused the National Congress Party of tricking the international community into believing that a peace agreement is signed by signing partial agreements while the fact remains that there is no peace in Darfur.

Speaking over phone, the SLM leader renewed calls for the deployment of an international force to protect the civilian population in the region from Janjaweed and government attacks.

He said that the only way to peace is through changing this regime and bringing in place a democratic region that will allow for a peaceful transfer of power and wealth.

"The way we see it is that the only solutions to the crisis in Darfur is not through the many signatures on peace agreements but through putting an end to Janjaweed attacks and the genocide practiced by the regime," he said.

Other Headlines:

- Witnesses testify in the case of slain African Union interpreter accompanying Jan Egeland
(Rai AlShaab)

- 17 primary schools in Nyala close down as teachers' strike over delayed pay (*AlAyaam*)