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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

UN

10 UN military advisers to be deployed in Darfur Monday; Tripartite Mechanism "UN, AU, GoNU" agrees on support package to AMIS.

AlSahafa; Sudan Tribune Jan 14, 07 (KHARTOUM) The Tripartite panel, on the implementation of the UN support to AU peacekeeping force, agreed today to deploy 10 military experts in Darfur, an AU-UN joint statement said.

The joint mechanism committee, which comprises AMIS, UNMIS and the Government of Sudan, decided today in its fourth meeting to deploy on 15 January a group of 10 UN military officers to Darfur to support African forces.

This second group comes in addition to the 17 UN military staff officers and 19 UN police advisers who are already in Darfur.

Ambassador Sadiq Al Magli, the Director of the Peace Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the officers are from Bangladesh, Egypt, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

On 11 January, UNMIS announced that it handed over the first batch of equipment and supplies to African Union Mission in Sudan, including night vision goggles, generators, tents and other supplies, as part of the first phase of UN support to AMIS.

The UN mission in Sudan said today in a news bulletin that UN is coordination efforts with Au to finalizing phase two of support. Phase two of UN support to AU force in

Darfur will consist of a Heavy Support Package, including additional staff and equipment.

The fifth meeting of the tripartite mechanism will be held on 24 January at UNMIS headquarters in Khartoum. (ST)

Sudanese Women Union calls for expelling Radhia Achouri from Sudan.

Khartoum Monitor In solidarity with the Sudanese anger against the UN peace keeping forces who committed alleged rape and other sexual crimes to southern Sudanese children in the south, the Sudanese Women General Union (SWGU) organized yesterday in March outside the UN building, led by Secretary- General of SWGU, Dr. Raja Hassan Khalifa.

The march was organized on behalf of the Sudanese Women Union, social and voluntary women's organizations as well as in the name of Sudanese mothers.

The SWGU presented a memorandum addressed to the UNSG demanding the UN to persecute those criminals in Sudan to insure justice and its fair role in keeping the peace and security in Sudan.

The memorandum also demanded the UN to provide moral and financial compensation, as well as to participate in the psychological and social rehabilitation of all those who have been violated.

AlSudani reported that in the memo which was submitted to the representative of the UN in Khartoum, the SWGU has also called for , expelling the UNMIS spokesperson, Radhia Achouri from Sudan to restore back the Sudanese woman dignity.

It also called on the UNSG to be more careful in the selection of the UN personnel and to expel whoever doesn't respect the dignities of peoples.

Darfur

Protocol between SLM Minnawi and Justice and Equality Movement “signatories to DPA “to be signed today

AIRai AIAam The SLM- Minnawi and Justice and Equality Movement “signatories to the DPA” will sign today in SLM centre in Omdurman, a political, military and security protocol. The protocol signing will be covered by local and international media agencies.

Minister of Justice: fighting between south Darfur tribes has been stopped.

AIRai AIAam Minister of Justice has decisively assured that the fighting between south Darfur tribes has been stopped. He added that a reconsolidation conference is to be held during coming days. The state officials, legislative authorities, mediators, representatives of Habania and Falata tribes will participate in the conference.

The conference is expected also to solve the problem of compensations. Minister of Justice has said to press that reports on causalities of the clashes between tribes are not true.

Minnawi threatens to resign from Government; SLA's Minawi accuses Sudan over worsening crisis in Darfur

AlSahafa Senior Assistant to the President and head of a faction of the Sudanese Liberation Movement (SLM), Minni Minawi has accused the Government of Sudan of being behind the deterioration of security situation Darfur

He added that the government has made nothing but increased the number of IDPs particularly in West of Chad. Minnawi also threatened to resign from the Government.

Meanwhile a number of rebel leaders who defected earlier from SLM-Abdul Wahid, announced that they have decided to rejoin the movement and to disassociate themselves from NRF activities in the field.

NA delegation begins fact finding mission in Darfur.

Alltibaha The National Assembly delegation fact finding mission has started its work in Darfur. "The mission which is headed by head of Security and Defence Committee Jalal Tawer had met yesterday with the leaders of the Native Administration and the DPA signatories" head of the legislative assembly of W. Darfur State, Saad Abdul Rahman said.

NA speaker: Political Parties Act allows room for political activity.

AlRai AlAam The National Assembly speaker, Ahmed Ibrahim el Tahir said that the Political Party Law will allow room for political activities without restrictions.

"If political party activities were restricted after passing the political party law, the political parties have the right to protest" He said.

GoS calls for road map to bring DPA opponents on board; Majzoub el Khalifa meets with president ambassador

Sudan Vision; AlRai Allam Sudan has stressed the necessity to put in place, for the forthcoming period, a workable, roadmap that presents an integrated and comprehensive perception that would collectively tackle the issue underlying Darfur crisis.

Following his meeting, yesterday, with the British ambassador to Khartoum, the presidential Advisor, and Dr. Majzoub Al-Khalifa stated that his government view, with regard to above mentioned road map, was based on the referential of Abuja Agreement, and Addis Ababa summit and AU Peace and Security Council (Abuja meeting) Resolution.

Khalifa called for a prompt action on the said map and a simultaneous contact with the Abuja opponents persuading them to get on board, adding that Sudan would encourage the UN-AU initiative focusing contacts with opponents if that initiative was consistent with the Peace Agreement.

He was quoted to have reaffirmed Sudan commitment to fire cessation and called on the other parties not to assault neither the humanitarian convoys, nor the opponents or the Government.

On his part, the British Diplomat affirmed his governments support the DPA and its readiness to beef-up the AU on ground in Darfur.

EU requests opposition parties to help achieve peace in Darfur.

Khartoum Monitor European Union (EU) Special Representative for Sudan, Pekka Haavisto, said in a press conference held on Saturday in the European Commission that the opposition parties, Umma Popular Congress and the Communist have to help in achieving peace in Darfur. “The opposition parties have to contribute to peace in Darfur .Darfur issue is very serious, Darfur is not a place to play games” asserted the representative.

Abdul Wahid Mohamed Nur calls Akhbar Alyaum editor makes four conditions for negotiations:

Akhbar el Youm The SLM leader Abdul Wahid Mohamed Nur said in a telephone conversation with the editor of Akhbar Alyum that his movement will only participate in negotiations over the Darfur under four conditions:

- Stopping the killing of IDPs, refugees and civilians by the Government in all Darfur areas.
- Return of refugees and IDPs to their villages.
- International protection for IDPs and refugees after return
- Payments of Individual and collective compensations.

Defence team of Suleiman Jamous and family to hold press conference today

Rai Al-Shaab The defence team and the Family of Suleiman Jamous, who is arrested by the UN, will hold a press conference on Wednesday 17th January 2007 at the office of Mr. Hafiz Ahmed Abdullah Ibrahim (lawyer) at 13:00, Zubeir Basha Street, Mahmoud El Rayah Building, west of Neilein Student Union. All news agencies are invited to attend the conference.

200 killed in Darfur tribal clashes

ST Jan 13, 2007 (KHARTOUM) More than 200 people have died in clashes between ethnic African farmers and nomadic Arabs in South Darfur in the past week, leading the Sudanese government to send emissaries to try to reconcile the tribes involved, officials said Saturday.

The fighting was the latest outburst in a nearly four-year-long conflict that has caused as many as 450,000 deaths and chased 2.5 million people from their homes in Sudan’s vast Darfur region, where nomadic tribes and farming communities have long wrangled over access to scarce water.

The war began when ethnic African rebels took up arms against the Arab-dominated government in February 2003, charging it with neglect. The government is accused of responding by unleashing an Arab militia known as the Janjaweed that has been

blamed for the worst atrocities in the conflict. The Sudanese government rejects the allegations.

The latest fighting involved Habania Arab nomads and Falata ethnic African farmers, Justice Minister Mohammed Ali al-Mardhi told the independent newspaper Al-Rai Al-Aam. He said that more than 200 people had been killed over the past week, mainly nomads, and that the government had sent reconciliation missions to try to end the fighting.

Sudanese Interior Minister Zubair Bashir Taha appealed to tribal leaders to stop the killing and "resort to the voice of wisdom," the state-run SUNA news agency said.

The government's casualty estimate could not be independently verified because the government has barred foreign journalists from Darfur for months.

He said the African Union was also aware of separate clashes between other tribes of nomads and farmers that killed 42 people elsewhere in Darfur earlier in the week, according to Sudanese media.

CPA

SPLM affiliates in Abyei attack a citizen, close administrative unit.

Allintibaha; Alkhartoum reported that a group of Denka Ngok (SPLM) has yesterday attacked and occupied the office of Abyie administrative unit. According to press reports the group has also attacked the adm. Officer and a merchant.

The group, which claimed that its represents the civil society organization in Abyie, announced the establishment of a committee for development work. The committee on development wrote to the Wali of South kordofan informing him that Abyie is no longer part of his state as they believe it should be under the Presidency.

In a related development, the Free Forum of the Miseriea Area people called for an emergency meeting to be held in el Mujlad to discuss these developments and to ask the government to explain its position on this issue.

NCP affirms arrest of some of its members by SPLM in southern Sudan

Allintibaha The spokesperson of the NCP Southern Sector Khamis Hagar said that the Party members are subjected to maltreatment in southern Sudan such as arrests and restriction of movement contrarily to what has been stated in the CPA.

Pagan to arrive Khartoum in 24 hours to prepare for CPA partners meeting

AlSudani reported that the SPLM Secretary General will arrive Khartoum in 24 hours to prepare for the CPA partners (SPLM and NCP) meeting in which pending issues will be discussed.

GoSS

South Sudan unity is crucial to protect peace: Paulino Matip

SudanTribune.com Jan 14, 2007 (JUBA) General Paulino Matip said he decided to join the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) because he was persuaded that Southern unity was necessary to protect peace. He further disclosed contacts with the late Garang during Naivasha talks.

The Deputy Commander in Chief of the SPLA, General Paulino Matip said in an interview with a Southern Sudanese news website (www.ssbin.com) that he decided to join the SPLA because he was convinced that the unity of southern Sudanese was the most crucial tool to protecting the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

He also explained that he preferred to sign the unity agreement with the SPLA in Juba instead of Nairobi for "one simple fact, firstly, we are all southerners; secondly, we have a capital city called Juba. Therefore, it was to our best interest to conduct the talk in our nation's capital. Evidently, that was how the Juba Declaration was born."

Asked if he had contacts with the late Dr John Garang during the peace talks between the SPLM and the ruling National Congress Party, Matip said he advised Garang during a telephone conversation to "stick to the original border line established by the British Government."

South Sudan's most powerful militia leader, Paulino Matip announced the disbandment of his South Sudan Defence Force (SSDF) and joined the ranks of the SPLA during the first celebration of the first anniversary of the CPA in Juba on 9 January 2006. (ST)

Uganda to build trade centre in Sudan's Juba

SudanTribune.com Jan 14, 2007 (KHARTOUM) Uganda's trade with Southern Sudan is expected to double this year when the country opens a trade centre in Juba.

The Uganda trade centre will promote Ugandan exports in the Sudanese market and spur investment. The move comes as informal business between the two countries is experiencing boom but with however no proper channels or site to operate from.

Uganda's ambassador to Sudan, Mull S. Katende said, "The Sudan market is new and it means a lot to us. That is why we have to find ways of formalizing and sustaining the growing trade. The trade centre will build consumers' confidence in our products, increase volumes and promote product consistency."

Uganda officials based in Sudan say they have already acquired over 20 hectares of land in Juba and a prominent Ugandan businessman has been contracted to construct the centre, which will then be let out to business people.

The trade centre will have show-rooms, shops, promotional centers and warehouses. All Ugandan exports to Sudan will be found at the centre.

We have already signed a co-operation agreement with Sudan and hope the trade centre will help organize trade between the two countries and double the volumes,” said Katende.

GoNU

Sudan’s FM briefs Kuwait officials on Arab efforts, peace process

ST Jan 14, 2007 (KUWAIT) Sudan’s foreign minister briefed the Kuwaiti Amir about Sudanese effort in Iraq, Lebanon and Somalia. He also informed the Kuwaiti authorities on Sudan peace deals in Darfur and eastern Sudan.

Kuwaiti deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohamed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah said here on Sunday that the visiting Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol Ajawin briefed the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah about efforts exerted by Sudan in Iraq, Lebanon and Somalia. (KUNA)

Other Developments

World Bank official visits Sudan to discuss joint cooperation

SudanTribune.com Jan 14, 2007 (KHARTOUM) A World Bank official, in a meeting with the local press here, said he is visiting the country to discuss progress of joint cooperation.

The Director of Operations in the Office of the Vice President, Africa Region, in the World Bank, Hartwig Schafer, said that the World Bank is collaborating very closely with the development partners to support the programmes of the Government of National Unity and that they are working to build strong partnership to support the Government of Sudan to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

The CPA saw an unprecedented cooperation among donors to support the CPA. The World Bank and UNDP co-lead a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM), which served as the blueprint for reconstruction and development in Sudan. The JAM was the basis for multi-sect oral collaborative work in technical and policy analysis and for building consensus and finalizing projections of Sudan’s financing gap.

Schafer expressed appreciation for the support by the international partners to the programmes for betterment of the life of the Sudanese people in the fields of education, agriculture, infrastructure and development of local communities, the state-run SUNA reported.

The World Bank official explained that the purpose of his visit to Sudan is to meet with the government at the national level and the Government of Southern Sudan to discuss progress of joint cooperation.

He said that he would meet during his visit to Juba Monday with senior officials in the Government of Southern Sudan, the Bank’s donor partners and the Bank Staff, adding

that the focus of discussions will be the progress made for restoring infrastructure and basic service delivery to the population.

The World Bank reopened its Sudan office in 2005 after twelve years of absence because of Sudan's default on its debt repayment. The World Bank has staffed two offices in Khartoum and Juba in order to meet the growing demand for assistance in implementing the two MDTFs. (ST)

EU requests opposition parties to help achieve peace in Darfur

Khartoum Monitor European Union (EU) Special Representative for Sudan, Pekka Haavisto, said in a press conference held on Saturday in the European Commission that the opposition parties, Umma Popular Congress and the Communist have to help in achieving peace in Darfur. "The opposition parties have to contribute to peace in Darfur .Darfur issue is very serious, Darfur is not a place to play games" asserted the representative.

Chad army, rebels dispute control of remote town

ST Jan 14, 2007 (N'DJAMENA) Chad's army said on Sunday it had dislodged rebel forces from a remote town they captured on Saturday and was pursuing them through the desert, but the rebels insisted they still held the town.

The rebel Union Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD) occupied the remote northeastern town of Ounianga Kebir early on Saturday morning, opening up what a spokesman said was a new front designed to stretch government forces.

Confusion and contradictory statements are typical of an eastern insurgency against Chad's President Idriss Deby which has seen a series of hit-and-run raids by various rebel groups, including an assault on the capital N'Djamena last April.

Violence in the east of oil-producing Chad has been fuelled by instability and ethnic killings spreading across the border from the neighbouring Darfur region of Sudan.

Chadian army Chief of Staff General Kossingar Bayana said there had been only customs officers and a few soldiers at Ounianga Kebir on Saturday when a treacherous soldier allowed rebel forces to occupy the town, but government reinforcements had arrived late on Saturday and retaken control.

Bayana said his troops were pursuing rebel fighters in the direction of Gouro in the rocky foothills of the Tibesti Mountains, deep in the Sahara near the border with Libya.

But a UFDD spokesman said its forces still held Ounianga Kebir.

Rebel units have fought a cat-and-mouse conflict with government troops across the east, briefly occupying several towns and occasionally launching more serious, concerted attacks such as the raid on N'Djamena in the west of the country last April, in which hundreds of people were killed.

