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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

UNMIS to redeploy military from Kassala

(*AlAyaam* - 6 Jul. **Kassala**) The United Nations has announced it is redeploying its military from Kassala to other areas in Sudan within the next two weeks.

SRSG Pronk said in a meeting with the *Wali* of Kassala yesterday that his visit to Kassala comes within the framework of discussions with the authorities over details of the redeployment of the United Nations force from Kassala following the redeployment from Kassala of the SPLA.

Pronk said that there are ongoing contacts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the issue.

He said that some of the UNMIS staff will leave while the UNMOs will be redeployed to other areas of Sudan.

The SRSG called upon the government in Kassala to facilitate the movement of relief agencies in the area and proposed regular meetings to consolidate cooperation and access to information especially on the different activities of the mission and the other United Nations agencies.

The governor, on his part, confirmed that UNMIS has succeeded in its role in the state and said it carried out its duties there in full cooperation with the regional government.

Kassala informs Pronk of its rejection to deployment of United Nations forces

(*AlSahafa* – 6 Jul. **Khartoum**) Youth and students' groups in Kassala State handed SRSG Pronk a memorandum yesterday protesting a possible transition of AMIS to a United Nations operation.

The groups say they regard the issue as an infringement on state sovereignty and declared their backing for the President of the Republic in his opposition to the transition.

Prominent member of the NCP reveals underlying reasons for rejection of the transition to a United Nations operation

(*AlRai AlAam* – 6 Jul. **Khartoum**) Amin Hassan Omar, a prominent member of the National Congress Party, admitted there are differences within the ruling party over the issue of an AMIS to United Nations transition but stressed that the differences in views do not reach conflict proportions.

He said that President Bashir took the decision to reject a United Nations force in Darfur after careful study.

Speaking to a select group of journalists yesterday, Omar pointed out that the United Nations seeks to deploy forces to Darfur with a mandate that will enable it to use engage in battle and will not be answerable to the government but to foreign parties that will decide on the status of these forces and the nature of their movement.

He drew a comparison between the forces the United Nations seeks to deploy to Darfur and the forces on the ground in southern Sudan by virtue of the CPA and pointed out that those forces (in southern Sudan) have a specific mandate governed by a specific timeline while the forces to be deployed in Darfur will not be governed by such conditions.

He further pointed out that the United Nations forces in southern Sudan came through the consent of the Parties to the agreement while the DPA does not provide for such a forces in Darfur.

He also said that President Bashir's rejection of the idea came as a result of consultations and is the view of held by all the institutions of the government in Sudan.

WFP seeks \$746 mln. for emergency operation in Sudan

(*Xinhua/ST* – 5 Jul. **Nairobi**) The UN World Food Program (WFP) said Wednesday it is seeking 746 million U.S. dollars from donors in 2006 for its emergency operation to feed more than six million people in Sudan's South, Darfur, and the East areas.

In a statement issued in Nairobi, the UN agency said the Sudanese government in May donated 20,000 metric tons of sorghum to WFP to feed displaced and vulnerable communities in the western region of Darfur, following a critical shortage of food aid stocks.

WFP said pockets of severe malnutrition had already been identified as well as areas where households had exhausted their food stocks in south, and parts of Darfur.

The results just released from a WFP-coordinated assessment in the long-neglected east of Sudan show chronic malnutrition after decades of drought and poverty.

"This year, many people in the east are being pushed to their limits with the added burden of fast-rising food prices," it said.

Malnutrition rates are comparable to the south and Darfur. The east is part of the overall appeal (seeking 302 million dollars) for the south so an immediate response from donors is essential, according to the WFP.

CPA

Parliament to discuss issue of squatter settlements around Khartoum

(*AlAyaam* – 6 Jul. **Khartoum**) Deputy Speaker Atim Garang discussed with the local representatives and tribal leaders in Khartoum the issue of squatter settlements and services to such areas around Khartoum.

The Deputy Speaker briefed the group of the National Assembly's regulatory and legislative role and its commitment to the implementation of the CPA and the Interim Constitution.

He pointed out that parliament is now bracing itself to deliberate on security and human rights laws when it comes from recess.

The *Sultan's* on their part briefed the Deputy Speaker of the problems they face especially those of planning and the unorganised campaigns carried out by the authorities in Khartoum State.

They have called for an intervention by the National Assembly in resolving these issues and deplored the lack of security, health and education services in the squatter areas.

They also called upon the relevant authorities in the state to visit the areas described as “marginalised”.

Government of Blue Nile State lays plans for returns for 2007

(*AlAyaam* – 6 Jul. **el-Damazeen**) The local government in Blue Nile State has estimated the number the number of IDPs in the region at 130,000 and Ethiopian refugees at 50,000 while an additional number of refugees are not yet registered with the UNHCR.

An advisor to the local government in Blue Nile State says that the state has laid plans for the repatriation of refugees to be carried out in 2007 and training programs for experts in food security.

SPLM minister says NCP delaying Sudan peace deal

(*Reuters/ST* – 5 Jul. **Khartoum**) A leading southern Sudanese politician accused the ruling party on Wednesday of dragging its feet on implementing last year’s north-south peace deal to delay being forced to share oil revenues.

Cabinet Affairs Minister Deng Alor, a member of the former southern rebel Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) said the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) had hindered work on the formation of commissions meant to implement the deal.

"Implementation is very slow. On other issues the implementation is not taking place at all. Because of the oil," Alor told Reuters.

The SPLM and Sudan’s Khartoum-based rulers formed a coalition government after a signing a peace deal last January to end more than two decades of north-south civil war. The deal also ushered in a south Sudan regional government.

One of the deal’s key tasks is to demarcate a north-south border which would establish control of oil fields. Under the agreement, oil revenues from the south would be split roughly equally between the northern and southern governments.

The south would receive no money from fields in the north.

Alor said that after an initial acrimonious meeting, the NCP had refused further talks with the petroleum commission, whose mandate includes examining oil contracts and oil output. The NCP currently receives all oil revenues.

"The NCP would like the status quo to continue so that we do not know much about things associated with oil production," Alor said, adding that without accurate production figures it would be impossible to divide oil wealth fairly.

"Our question now is 50 percent of what? This is what the National Congress does not want us to find out," he added.

The Sudanese Oil Ministry was not immediately available for comment.

Analysts have said another obstacle to the petroleum commission's work is the lack of SPLM representatives with in-depth oil industry knowledge.

Alor also said the border commission was inoperative because the NCP had denied it funding. As well as determining oil field control, the commission would decide the residency — north or south — of millions of Sudanese.

The distinction is important for parliamentary elections due by 2009, a referendum on southern secession in 2011, and a smaller referendum to decide the sovereignty of Abyei, an oil-rich area disputed by the north and south.

The SPLM has accused the NCP of unilaterally determining the border to include oil-rich areas in the north.

"The commission has been formed, but it hasn't started its work yet. There's been no progress...There's no budget for them to start their work. They need money from the presidency to start their work," Alor said.

The presidency was not immediately available for comment.

Alor also accused the NCP-controlled Sudanese army of continuing to support militias hostile to the SPLM.

Under the January 2005 deal, northern-backed militias in south Sudan were given the option of joining either the north or southern armies. But some have continued to attack SPLM forces.

"The Sudan Armed forces tell us they have ceased supporting them, but this is not true When we confront them with evidence they just keep quiet," he continued.

The NCP denies it still supports southern militias.

Despite the setbacks, Alor said the SPLM was keen to avoid a stalemate with the NCP.

"If one party is completely disabled politically, then what is the alternative? Stalemate, stagnation of the peace process. That's why we are keen to see the National Congress listen."

Southern Sudan/LRA/SPLM

6 killed, 11 injured in attack on aid vehicle near S. Sudan's Juba

(*Sudan Tribune* – 5 Jul. **Juba**) At least six people were killed and 11 wounded when gunmen ambushed a German aid agency vehicle in southern Sudan, witnesses said Wednesday, highlighting insecurity in the region.

Five Sudanese teenagers riding in the back of a pick-up belonging to the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and one attacker were shot dead in the incident, which took place on Monday, they said.

In addition to the casualties, one man, a Kenyan surveyor working for GTZ, was reported missing after the attack on the vehicle about 19 kilometers (12 miles) west of Juba, the provisional capital of southern Sudan, they said.

About 30 gunmen, believed to be members of Uganda's notorious Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) stormed the truck carrying non-German GTZ employees and security guards and about 20 passengers, the witnesses said.

"They were shooting bullets all around us," said Paul Agos, a Sudanese security guard for GTZ who was in the vehicle. "I fell off the truck and shot one of them. Then they all fled into the bush."

Witnesses said the attackers, some of whom were uniformed, were rebel fighters with the LRA, which has waged a nearly 20-year war in northern Uganda and southern Sudan but is now preparing for peace talks with Kampala.

They said the gunmen spoke the Acholi dialect of northern Uganda and that the attack took place in an area known to be frequented by the rebels, but the identities of the attackers could not be independently confirmed.

This is the second time since last June that the LRA rebels are accused of committing attacks in southern Sudan.

The Ugandan rebel group on 13 June denied being involved in an attack on the outskirts of the south Sudanese capital Juba on Sunday 11 June night where nine people killed by gunmen.

The attack occurred on Sunday 11 June at about 10 p.m. (1900 GMT) in the Gumba area on the east bank of the Nile and a few miles from the city centre. Nine people were wounded, including two children and five women.

The LRA accused the Ugandan government of attempting to undermine the South Sudan government peace initiative to bring peace in Uganda.

Herbert Kremeier, GTZ's Kenya-based program director for southern Sudan, said the attack underscored the agency's concern for its employees' safety in the region where it is building a road from Juba to the town of Bor.

"GTZ is concerned about security," he said at the group's offices in Juba where the bullet-riddled truck was brought after the ambush. "It has been an issue."

Kremeier said a search, backed by UN helicopters, was underway for the missing Kenyan surveyor, Daniel Wekesa.

Six killed in intertribal clashes in South Sudan Rumbek

(*Sudan Tribune* – 5 Jul. **Rumbek**) Six people are killed and three others wounded in Rumbek East County during the past three days also hostilities broke out between two Agar Dinka clans.

The problem started on the second day of July when three members of the Panyar clan were stopped near Bhar-naam by members of the Aliap clan, also of Agar. They were asked who they were, they answered they were from the Panyar clan.

Suddenly one of these was shot with an AK47; the other two fled and were pursued to no avail. The wounded man who was left for dead was seriously injured and died later in Rumbek Regional Hospital.

However, before he died he was able to say who shot him that they were Panyar people.

This has led to his clan members to seek for revenge killings amongst the Aliap clan, and resulted two of the Aliap were killed and one from Panyar also killed.

This state of insecurity has led to tension in Rumbek town itself as members of the clan two clans are found in great numbers with AK47.

The Rumbek security authorities had dispatched SPLA and a security team to the areas to stem any wide scale fighting between the two clans of Rumbek East County.

It is worth noting that, Atuot man travelling with his wife was shot dead a long the same road route- Rumbek East County for no apparent reason on July 30th/july/2006. The Outpoint was never found until now.

The death of above people founds unlawfulness in the State due for the fall of judiciary and prisons workers says a security officer this morning at the front of his office near freedom Square. He also added that the” State authorities are not work well to improve this State to the promise land of Late Dr. John Garang de Mabior”.

As well he ended saying we the security of this Lakes State, we had worked very well to bring people into justice but Prisons, Police, and judiciary let us down by releasing the accusers including killers and criminals. He concluded that we must try our level best to bring those stupid people killers again and we shall show onward the judiciary and the Governor what action they could take.

Southern Sudan donates US\$30 mln to UN Road Project

(Sudan Tribune – 4 Jul. Juba) The United Nations World Food Programme today received a donation of US\$30 million from the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) for WFP’s massive road works project in the region.

"We are delighted to receive such a sizeable donation from the new southern Government for our roads project," said Kenro Oshidari, Regional Director of WFP in Sudan. "We feel it is a vote of confidence in WFP’s hard work over the past three years to improve the region’s road system including crucial de-mining."

It is the first significant humanitarian donation made by the southern regional government, and the second donation this year to WFP from Sudan. It is a major boost to the WFP project to help rebuild southern Sudan after Africa’s longest war.

The WFP road project aims to rebuild more than 3,000 kilometres of roads in the war-ravaged south at a cost of US\$183 million. Two decades of fighting between the north and the south destroyed the region’s road network and most other infrastructure, leaving the south isolated and economically crippled.

Pending sufficient funding for the roads project, the entire region will eventually be opened up by improving road links between Kenya and Uganda into Sudan. It will also connect the Nile River to key feeder roads. Once complete, it will be possible to travel by road from the southern borders of Sudan to Khartoum and onto Egypt for the first time in a generation.

Improved roads dramatically reduce the cost of transporting WFP food and other humanitarian supplies to remote communities. The new roads, combined with greater warehouse capacity and pre-positioning of food stocks before the rains, will help WFP to continue to reduce the relatively costly delivery of food aid by air lift and air drops. So far in 2006, WFP has cut air deliveries by 90% compared to last year.

Even after the GOSS's landmark donation, the roads project still has a funding shortfall of US\$36 million. Apart from the roads project, WFP needs US\$746 million from donors in 2006 for its emergency operation to feed more than six million people in the South, Darfur, the East and Three Areas of Sudan.

The Government of Sudan in May donated 20,000 metric tons of sorghum to WFP to feed displaced and vulnerable communities in the western region of Darfur, following a critical shortage of food aid stocks.

Since late 2003, WFP has rebuilt roughly 1,400 kilometres of roads, repaired bridges and culverts, and removed and destroyed some 200,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance in southern Sudan. The project has linked major towns across the south and reopened trade routes with neighbouring countries.

One of the near-completed roads runs between the town of Yei and the southern capital Juba. It is a vital link used by traders coming from Uganda. The road already carries heavy traffic, and the number of vehicle movements has shot up from zero to 200 per day in the past year. As a result, markets in Juba are booming.

According to a recent WFP survey, roads built so far have halved travel time to markets, schools and health centres. Bus services now operate on all major routes and the cost of public transport has decreased by 50 to 60 percent. The price of commodities has also fallen. In Juba, for example, a bag of cement costs US\$17 compared with US\$29 last year. The roads project employs 1,650 Sudanese nationals, including 250 working in de-mining.

Other donors to WFP's Special Operation for Emergency Road Repair and Mine Clearance of Key Transport Routes in Sudan include the United States (US\$72.5 million), Britain's Department for International Development (US\$19 million), Japan (US\$10 million), Norway (US\$5 million), the Netherlands (US\$4.5 million), Italy (US\$1.7 million), Switzerland (US\$1.5 million), the United Nations (US\$1 million), Canada (US\$847,000), Australia (US\$730,000) and multilateral funds (US\$86,000).

Eastern Sudan

Eritrea denies supporting Darfur holdout rebel groups

(*Sudan Tribune* – 5th Jul. Asmara) Eritrea has denied supporting Darfur rebels who attacked Hamrat al-Sheikh locality in north Kordofan. An Eritrean official said Darfur rebels are waiting to meet Sudanese First Vice President in the coming days.

Head of Organizational Affairs at the ruling People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) Abdellah Jabir said that Eritrea said that Sudanese government is officially informed on the presence of the Darfur rebels opposed to the Peace deal in Asmara.

Jabir indicated that the Eritrean purpose of their presence in Asmara is to engage dialogue with them to join the signed Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA). He further revealed that

Sudanese First Vice President is expected to visit Asmara in the coming days to hold talks with the holdout rebel groups.

He said that the negative reaction of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry is not justified; noting that what was occurred in Kordofan is in contradiction with Eritrean efforts to bring peace in Eastern Sudan and Darfur.

Jabir said the holdout rebels asked to meet the Sudanese First Vice President and Khartoum was informed about this request. He further added that Salva Kiir will be very soon to meet the rebels.

The Eritrean official didn't elaborate which rebel group would meet the Sudanese First Vice President. Abdelwahid al-Nur of SLM, or the recently established National Redemption Front (NRF).

Analysts say that Hamrat al-Sheikh attack was planned by one of the NRF factions before its foundation. But is attributed to the NRF just to advertise the newly sealed front.

Sudan has summoned the Eritrean ambassador in Khartoum, Issa Ahmed Issa, to ask why Eritrea is playing host to a Darfur rebel alliance that attacked a town, the Sudanese foreign minister said on Wednesday.

Eritrean-Sudanese relations have substantially warmed in recent months and Asmara sent an ambassador to Khartoum in June. Asmara is mediating in talks intended to end a simmering decade-old conflict in Sudan's arid east.

Other developments

Rally in London against minister allegedly involved in Darfur killing

(*Aegis/ST* – 5 Jul. **London**) Refugees from Sudan's war-torn Darfur region will rally Thursday against the visiting Sudanese minister of Interior who is allegedly one of 17 names recommended by a UN report for his support to Arab militia in Darfur.

“Survivors of ethnic cleansing in Darfur will tomorrow stage a demonstration outside the Royal United Services Institute” (RUSI) from 10:00am to 2:00pm”, the anti genocide group Aegis Trust said in a press release. Sudanese Minister for the Interior is set to address a conference there.

Since spring 2003 Sudanese Government forces and Arab militia have carried out 'ethnic cleansing' against the civilian population in Darfur, resulting, according to Foreign Office, in as many as 400,000 deaths. Around 2 million have been forced from their homes and are relying on international aid to survive.

According to the leaked appendices of the confidential UN Sanctions Committee report, Taha is identified for a "failure to take appropriate action to employ police forces" to disarm the Janjaweed. In fact, during his period of tenure, far from disarming the Janjaweed, he has been widely reported to have brought militia elements into the Sudanese police and army.

He is a prominent member of the National Islamic Front (NIF), in effect the military wing of the ruling party National Congress Party, and supported 'Jihad' in the south of Sudan, where

he also fought. He argued against the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended the civil war with the south.

The NIF has been ruthless in its use of violence, both in Darfur and during the Second Sudanese Civil War. Allegations are on public record that the NIF may also have terrorist connections. In 1998, during terrorism expert Steven Emerson's testimony before the US Senate, he implicated the NIF as partly responsible for the February 1993 World Trade Centre attack.

“While it is important that all parties to the conflict strive for a peaceful settlement, it is unethical to give a platform to a man such as Taha, liable to have the blood of hundreds of thousands of people on his hands,” says Dr James Smith, Chief Executive of the Aegis Trust for genocide prevention, which coordinates the ‘Protect Darfur’ campaign. “If the British Government shares the UN view that Taha is an obstacle to peace, surely it's wrong to allow him the chance to grandstand at an international conference.”