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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

Pronk begins important talks with the government of South Darfur

Alwan-- The SRSG Jan Pronk has begun yesterday talks with the government of South Darfur as part of his two-day visit to Darfur which will be concluded today. During his visit Pronk will visit the markets and Al-Sireif camp which is considered by the UN as a governmental camp. In his meeting with the State government, Pronk focussed on the implementation of the DPA on the ground and opportunities for reviewing or amending the DPA and participation of the hold out rebels. Pronk's agenda include the issue of deploying international troops in the region.

UN affiliated bodies launch project to help victims of landmines

Khartoum Monitor-- The United Nations Mine Action Services, UNICEF, the UNDP and the UN Office for Project Services have launched the first project to help victims of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) and to provide community-based mine risk education services. It is an 18-month project supported by a contribution of \$ 1,698,341 from the government of Japan through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security and will be implemented through UN Mine Action Office in Sudan, which coordinates all UN activities related to landmines and ERWs in the country. The project aims to integrate the concept of human security into country-wide strategies and plans for victim assistance and mine risk education services.

GoNU

Mujahideen vow to crush international forces

(*Alwan* – 24th Jul. **Wad Medani**) The Coordinator-General of the Popular Defence Forces says the PDF will convene its bi-annual conference in Wad Medani, Gezira State, next Saturday.

Kamal-el-deen Ibrahim said that the bi-annual conference will also see 5,000 *Mujahideen* give a “pledge of allegiance to the death” to President Bashir in rejecting the deployment of international forces to Darfur.

He pointed out that the President’s vows to lead the opposition against international forces was a warning to those who think that the days of *Jihad* are over.

Coordinator-General Ibrahim further disclosed that Gezira State has prepared 140 PDF divisions, Special Forces and *Dabbabeen* to crush out the international forces should they set foot in Darfur.

“The *Dabbabeen* and *Mujahidden* will sever the limbs and behead all these conspirators”, he vowed.

CPA

NCP has cheated SPLM out of Khartoum deputy governor post, says MP Bol Ring

The Citizen—Head of the SPLM bloc in the Khartoum State Legislative Council MP Bol Ring accused the NCP of violating the Khartoum Constitution and SPLM’s right, with regard to the Khartoum State deputy governor position. He said that the formula for formation of Khartoum State’s Ministers Council gives the deputy governor position to SPLM.

Possible clashes in Abyei: A Report from Abyei by Abdelmajid Abdelhamid

Alwan-- Abyei area is suffering from the lack of executive institutions a situation which threatens the area of insecurity and political collapse. In a surprise development the SPLM has distributed arms to the nine tribes which support the Movement. This move is seen as part of the SPLM’s campaign for what it described as the new developments which Abyei area will witness during the coming days. Leading SPLM leaders in Abyei revealed their intentions to occupy Abyei on the 30th of July. This was said in a meeting between Deng Arop, legal adviser and member of ABC, and the nine tribes. A total of 649 pieces of arms were distributed to the tribes (10-135 pieces for each tribe). Given this situation some people decided to evacuate their families and children from Abyei to avoid any armed confrontation. The report states that the Dinka have asked the Commander of the UN Zambian troops to withdraw his troops from the area. The SPLM has also put its hands on a number of schools and the offices of the Islamic Daawa Organization.

Southern Sudan

Uganda threatens to attack LRA in Congo

Khartoum Monitor-- Uganda said on Sunday it might still attack LRA rebels camped in Congo if peace talks hosted by neighbouring southern Sudan fail to end fighting in one of Africa’s longest wars. While the talks continued, Uganda’s deputy Defence Minister, Ruth Nankabirwa, said Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) still had legal obligations to disarm militia groups like the LRA that posed a threat to regional security.

GoSS orders UN Radio closure

Alwan-- The GoSS authorities has ordered the closure of the UN Radio on the ground that it has not been issued a license.

Darfur/Darfur Peace Agreement

JMC on Darfur to look into 56 violations

Al-Ayam-- The Joint Military Committee (JMC) responsible for monitoring ceasefire in Darfur will begin today discussing the plan on disarming the janjaweed which was presented by the government in line with the DPA. AMIS Spokesperson, Nouredin Mezne, said representatives of the AU in the committee will meet with the international partners in the coming days to look into 56 violations of the ceasefire agreement committed after the signing of the DPA.

Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs: NGOs resume activities in Zalingi

Al-Ayam-- The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs said the humanitarian agencies have resumed their work in IDP camps in Zalingi. Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs, Ahmed Haroun, said there are 53,430 volunteers working with 1,781 NGOs in the country. The ministry is working with the UN agencies to provide food for Darfur up to end of this year.

Sudan considers Muslim troops for Darfur

Khartoum Monitor, Sudan Tribune-- Sudanese government cogitates implementing a plan to deploy Arab and Muslim troops in the region of Darfur in order to block the ongoing arrangements to replace the African Union troops there with international forces.

According to London based Alsharq Alawsat daily newspaper, the plan is being prepared by the Sudanese security and intelligence organs as well as the armed forces.

SLM: AU impedes implementation of DPA

Sudan Tribune-- Abdul Karim Al-Sheikh the head of the SLM/A advance delegation affirmed that the weak role played by the African Union has impeded implementation of Darfur peace agreement (DPA). He indicated that AU as an observer it should play its role in supervising security arrangements and the formation of a preparatory committee for the Darfurian-Darfurian dialogue. Al sheikh said on a special statement to Sudan Tribune that SLM didn't find complete cooperation from AU or response from the joint committees of the two parties nor from the private committee. He further added that SLM had suffered from the weak role played by the AU in propagating DPA and facilitation of movement of leaders of SLM.

Darfur holdout group says control entire North Darfur region

Sudan Tribune-- July 23, 2006 (ASMARA) — The Newly formed Darfur rebel group said they control entirely the region of northern Darfur. The group stated that there is no more presence of the forces of the Minawi group which signed a peace deal with Khartoum.

The National Redemption Front (NRF) declared that the State of North Darfur is now entirely clear of any forces belonging to Minni Minawi, the signatory to the Abuja Agreement, DPA in last May.

But Minni Minawi the leader of one of the SPLM groups, denied the NRF statement. Minawi said Khalil has been, during the last four years, alleging that his troops were controlling regions in Darfur, but that was not true.

"I believe Dr Khalil's statements would be like his previous ones" he added.

Khalil Ibrahim, a member of the NRF Leadership Authority and President of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said that the NRF had to repel continuous attacks by "Minawi's forces and his Janjaweed and government allies".

"The mission is now accomplished leaving the NRF in full control of the entire State of North Darfur. Minawi's forces have been driven out of Forawya, Umbaru, Kornoi, Bir Mazza, Amo, Khazzan Abu Gimra, Muzbad, Amarai, Kutum, Seyah and Atroon areas. 200 fighters have deserted Minawi and joined the NRF while another 84 soldiers taken as war prisoners".

A large number of vehicles and substantial amount of military hardware have been seized by NRF. Materials seized include documents relating to arms received by Minawi's forces from Khartoum government, said the NRF press release

Ibrahim stated that "Minawi's weight in the Darfur Military Equation now equals zero". "He can no longer deceive the world as he once did".

The statement invited the UN and the African Union to verify their entire control of the region.

"The UN Envoy to Sudan Jan Pronk and Representatives of the AU are cordially invited to visit NRF sites in the specified areas and review the "DPA" in accordance with these new realities".

NGO driver killed in South Darfur

Sudan Tribune-- July 22, 2006 (KHARTOUM) — A driver who was hired by a local NGO and partner of the faith-based humanitarian operation of ACT-Caritas in Darfur, to take staff home, was killed on Wednesday, July 19.

Abdul Bagi Ahmed was driving the vehicle on behalf of SUDO (Sudan Social Development Organisation), when he was stopped on the road from Mershing to Nyala. A man carrying a weapon shot and killed Mr. Ahmed.

Ahmed and the vehicle had been hired by SUDO to take its staff back to Mershing. SUDO is a partner of the ACT-Caritas operation in Darfur, operating a health clinic and psychosocial centre on behalf of ACT and Caritas, as well as implementing water and sanitation services in the camps for displaced people in Mershing.

According to a press statement by ACT-Caritas, the vehicle was stopped by a man dressed in civilian clothes, about 10-12 km from Manaweshi, while returning from Mershing between 18:00 and 19:00 in the early evening. A public health officer from the Ministry of Health who was visiting clinics in the area was the only passenger. After questioning Ahmed, the armed man jumped into the back of the vehicle and shot him three times in the back of the head.

It is believed that Mr. Ahmed died instantly.

Two more men then joined the armed man and stole the bag from the public health officer, who escaped unharmed. The Ministry of Health officer then walked back to Manaweshi, where he reported the incident to the Government of Sudan military and World Vision, which also works in the area.

It appears that the vehicle left Manaweshi in the early evening, even though the driver had been advised by the Government of Sudan security, SUDO staff and staff of World Vision not to leave at that time. The Ministry of Health officer had no other option but to return with the vehicle.

The area around Mershing and Manaweshi is known to be one of the least secure in south Darfur. Following a series of attacks on vehicles travelling along the road to Nyala, and a large attack on displaced people's camps at the beginning of this year, humanitarian organisations have been advised to obtain an escort from the African Union (AU) for missions to the area.

AU's Konare, Japanese PM to discuss Darfur crisis

The Citizen, Sudan Tribune-- July 21, 2006 (TOKYO) — Alpha Oumar Konare, chairman of the African Union Commission, will visit Japan next week to discuss a medical science award for Africa as well as the situation of Sudan's troubled Darfur region, the Japanese Kyodo reported.

Konare, who will be in Japan from Monday through Friday, will meet with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Tuesday to discuss details of selecting recipients for the Hideyo Noguchi award which the premier unveiled on his trip to Ghana in May.

The award is intended for medical researchers and personnel working for Africa. It is named after Noguchi, a Japanese scientist who died of yellow fever in Ghana in 1928 while conducting research on the disease.

Konare is scheduled to meet with former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, the first Japanese premier to visit sub-Saharan Africa, and speak on Africa's regional cooperation at the United Nations University.

Darfur displaced want Janjaweed disarmed before leaving camps

Source: Agence France-Presse English Wire Date: July 24, 2006
by Abdou Berrada

ZAM ZAM, **Sudan**, July 24, 2006 (AFP) - Almost three months after a partial peace deal was signed, the hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians in **Darfur** remain unwilling to go home until the Sudanese government's Janjaweed proxy militia has been disarmed.

A committee of elders representing the 43,000 people crammed into Zam Zam camp in North **Darfur** state heads to a routine meeting with an official from the African Union Mission in **Sudan** (AMIS).

"We will stay in Zam Zam until security is restored, and to achieve that the Janjaweed need to be disarmed," says one of them, Sheikh Ali Mohammed Fadul.

Sheikh Hassan, the most senior of the trio of local notables, is equally determined as he heads to the meeting.

"We want guarantees, we want the presence of an international contingent for a real peacekeeping operation. African Union (AU) forces are not enough," he says.

Khartoum submitted a plan for disbanding its militia earlier this month but it has not yet been unveiled and its implementation could prove difficult.

"The massacres have continued since Abuja," says Mohammed Beshir, who represents the rebel Justice and Equality Movement at AMIS's ceasefire commission.

Daniel Moenyana, who heads the AMIS civil police force, acknowledges that violence has continued to plague western **Sudan** since the signing of the Abuja peace agreement.

"There is still a lot of insecurity in **Darfur** but we cannot talk of massacres perpetrated by the Janjaweed or the Sudanese armed forces," he says.

"In fact, they don't want to go home," he says pointing to the refugees in Zam Zam