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(By Public Information Office)

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**HIGHLIGHTS:**

**United Nations**

**UN (UNHCR) raises alarm about violence in Darfur**

*(Khartoum Monitor)* – A spokesperson for the United Nations refugee agency on Friday, July 21st raised alarm about the worsening violence in Darfur, Sudan, where international organizations have had to suspend activities in camps for IDPs in one part of the west following attacks.

The UN high Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is “extremely concerned about the continuing deterioration of the security situation in Darfur”, agency spokesperson Ron Redmond told reporters in Geneva just one day after three water workers were beaten to death by a mob in a displaced persons camp in the Zalingei area in West Darfur.

**$110 million approved for HIV/AIDS programmes in Sudan**

*(Khartoum Monitor)*- UN programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Sudan Country Coordinator, Musa A. Bungudu, told the media yesterday in UNMIS headquarters that the Global Fund Management has approved $110 million for HIV/AID programme in the Sudan.

Bungudu said that the whole country is affected by the killer disease whether centre, north, south, east or west. The Coordinator pointed out that Gadarif State has 450 HIV positive cases. And that in Omdurman Dr. Numeiri private clinic tested 565 people as HIV positive. In juba it is close to 200, with a similar number in Yambio and other southern towns, he said. Bungudu disclosed that up to now there are no accurate figures for victims of AIDS in Sudan and that they relying on the 2002-2003 report which only covered 11 states in the country bringing number of victims to 600,000. He further revealed that next month they will carry out a survey of HIV/AIDS victims to get the exact statistics to be completed by the end of this year. He mentioned that the Sudanese have a stigma from AIDS patients and thus people tend not to go for HIV/AIDS tests because they are afraid that once they are tested positive they are thrown out the family. “Unless you are tested, they cannot know that you are HIV positive and without the test you cannot be treated”, he noted. According the Coordinator, UNICEF survey indicates that 74% of the victims are youth of 17-24 years who are sexually active.
**CPA**

Salva asks US to intervene to implement CPA protocol on Abyei, talk to NCP on international troops

*(Al-Rai Al-Aam)*- The 1st Vice President, Salva Kiir Mayardit, asked the US administration to negotiate with the NCP deployment of international troops in Darfur. He explained that he supports the deployment of UN troops. Kiir, who addressed a Sudanese community in the US, said he had asked the US administration, IGAD heads of states and the international community to intervene in order to force the NCP to implement the Abyei Protocol.

**Minister of Defence calls on armed militias to join SPLA**

*(Al-Rai Al-Aam)*- Minister of Defence, General Abdelrahim Mohamed Hussein, said the percentage of deployment of SAF from south Sudan has reached 61.8%. However, he said there delays in deploying troops from Upper Nile due to the need to protect the oilfields. The Minister advised the southern armed militias to join SPLA as it is not possible to integrate them into SAF. The minister noted that the SAF laws will be amended in a manner that would make them for the first time ever include international laws.

**Following report on occupation of Abyei by SPLM: Commissioner and SPLM representative refute report**

*(Akhbar Al-Yom)*- Following a report published by Alwan daily newspaper yesterday on SPLM intentions to occupy Abyei and distribution of arms by SPLM to the nine Dinka tribes in the area, both the Commissioner of Abyei, Himaidan Ali Himaidan, and the SPLM Secretary General in the area, Mohamed Suliman Gor, have denied the truth of this report. They said the situation in Abyei is stable. Meanwhile, the Free Forum of the People of the Misseriya Area has called for a big meeting to be held today in Muglad to agree on a mechanism for negotiations with SPLM leaders in Abyei so as to discuss the future of peaceful coexistence in the area.

**GoNU**

**SPLM to head five diplomatic missions including embassy in US**

*(Al-Rai Al-Aam)* – President al-Bashir has yesterday approved nominations of new ambassadors to Sudan diplomatic missions. Accordingly, the SPLM will head the diplomatic missions in Washington, Spain, Japan, Brussels and Kenya. The SPLM has also been given the post of Deputy Head of Mission in New York.

**Presidency to specify mandate of Petroleum Commission**

*(Alwan)*- The Head of the Energy and Mining Committee in the National Assembly, Hussein Mariot, said there are differences over the role of the Petroleum Commission. He said the Presidency intends to specify the mandate of the Commission so as to resolve all problems.

**Salva asks US to lift sanctions imposed on Sudan**
(Al-Sudani)- The 1st Vice President and the President of the GoSS, Salva Kiir Mayardit, said lifting of sanctions imposed on the Sudan will enable it achieve development and peace. Kiir discussed lifting of sanctions with President Bush.

Southern Sudan/SPLM/A

Unclear progress as Uganda peace talks adjourn for a week

(Sudan Vision)- Peace talks between the Ugandan government and LRA have adjourned for a week to allow for consultations, but it was unclear whether there was any progress, officials have said. “The delegates decided to adjourn the talks for a week because there are consultations that have to be done”, LRA spokesman Obonyo Olweny told AFP. In addition, the chief mediator Riak Machar, is scheduled to lead a delegation to meet LRA Joseph Kony. The Kampala delegation said the talks were a success but refused to elaborate on the progress.

Inter-clan fighting in Western Rumbek County

(The Citizen)- According to the Citizen’s correspondent in south Sudan, fighting between the Gok clans and Agar clans in Western Lakes State due to cattle rusting resulted in 71 deaths and many wounded. The fighting broke out on July 12th and continued until July 21st and was still raging while 1st Vice President Salva Kiir mayardit was visiting Rumbek.

Darfur/ DPA

Head of AMIS meets tomorrow DPA international partners

(Al-Ayam)- The Head of AMIS in Khartoum will meet tomorrow with the DPA international partners to discuss implementation of the peace agreement and the outcome of the Brussels donors meeting on Darfur. AMIS spokesperson said they have begun yesterday discussing the GoS plan on disarming the janjaweed.

NRF plans to attack Kordofan, recruits fighters in Libya

(Alwan)- Alwan’s private sources revealed that the NRF is planning to attack towns in Northern Kordofan. The NRF has enjoyed support from Libya which provided it with 70 land-cruisers. The authorities in Libya allowed NRF to recruit fighters in Libya

Bush to meet with Sudanese rebel leader

Bush to meet with Minni Minnawi, a leader of the Sudan Liberation Army, the main rebel group in Sudan's Darfur region on Tuesday, the White House said in a statement on Monday. The meeting will be on how to broaden support for the Darfur Peace Agreement, facilitate its implementation and ensure the expeditious deployment of UN peacekeepers to Darfur, the statement said.

Darfur Conflict Can Be Resolved Within AU, Maintains Country's Envoy
Lusaka, Jul 24, 2006 (The Post/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) --THE Darfur conflict can be solved within the African Union, Sudanese Ambassador to Zambia Salah Mohamed Ali has said. In an interview with The Post, Ambassador Ali said there was no need for a United Nations intervention force to move into the war ravaged Darfur region.

"Our position is that the African Union Military Intervention Force (AMIS) should be helped to continue with its mandate by making available to it more resources and logistics," he said. "The AU should continue other than switching to the UN because that will be a testimony to the failure of the AU and Africa as a whole to solve our own problems. Darfur conflict is an African problem and it should be solved within the African context." Ambassador Ali said Sudan would soon come up with a road map for resolving the conflict.

"Our President made our position on changing mandate to UN very clear when he met Kofi Anan during the AU summit in Banjul. Within a month, we will draw up a road map and submit it to the UN which will consider our envisaged plan on resolving the conflict and give its position," he said.

"The AU helped us reach ceasefire between government and three rebel movements, unfortunately two other movements didn't sign in May but the government is doing its best to bring them to join the peace process," he said.

"The AU would succeed more with increased resources and logistics because the real problem is shortage of funds. At the donors' conference on July, 18 in Belgium the AU requested for about $400 million and the conference managed to secure $250 million and we are hopeful that it will help them perform better."

Ambassador Ali said the pace of implementing provisions of the peace agreement was satisfactory and things were going well.

"The process suffered a major setback in July last year with the death of John Garang, he had an ambitious vision to establish a new Sudan as he called it and his death was not just a loss to SPLMA (Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army) and Sudan but the whole of Africa," he said.

"But we are getting somewhere and even Sudan's mediation between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) means that we have a fully fledged government which has assumed its role not only locally but in the region as well."

Sudan has rejected a UN intervention force saying it would be an affront to its sovereignty. Since 2003, the Darfur conflict has killed 200,000 and forced two million to flee their homes.

"When you have brotherly countries that contribute personnel who risk their lives to bring peace in your country you will definitely be grateful and we are," said Ambassador Ali. "We are very satisfied with our relations with Zambia and we are hoping that the protocol we have just signed will help in further
strengthening our cooperation."

➤ **Eastern Sudan**

One region first obstacle facing talks on east in Asmara

*(Al-Sahafa)-* Talks between the government and the Eastern Front has yesterday faced the first obstacle which is the Front’s demand of one region for the eastern states. The Government rejected the rebels demand.

➤ **Other Developments**

Four killed, six injured in clashes between Nuba and Maaliya tribes in Mandal and Alsaby areas in South Kordofan (Diling Locality)

*(Rai Al-Shaab)-* Four people have been killed and one wounded in armed confrontations between the Nuba and Maaliya tribes in Almandal and Alssaby areas in Diling Locality, South Kordofan. The Commissioner of the Diling Locality, Rahama Azaz, confirmed the incident which took place couple of days ago