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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Eliasson, Salim expected here within the week

(*AlSahafa; SMC*) Nouredine Mezni, Spokesperson for the AMIS, says it is hoped that Special Envoy Jan Eliasson will arrive in Khartoum within the next two days to activate the peace process for Darfur.

He added that Special Envoy Salim Ahmed Salim is expected between here from 7 to 11 July.

In a related development, Presidential Advisor Mustapha Osman Ismail said at a press conference yesterday that a pre-talks conference on talks between the government and Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory factions under the auspices of the joint UN-African Union effort will take place in Tripoli mid this month to determine the date, venue and agenda for talks.

In a separate development, the Presidential Advisor unveiled at a consultative meeting with pressmen yesterday the GoNU's four-pronged plan for the next four years that includes resolving of the conflict in Darfur, the implementation of the peace agreements signed, completion of the transition to democracy and the southern Sudan referendum on unity or secession.

On the other hand, an EU parliamentary delegation currently visiting the Darfur states has pledged to make efforts to contract all the non-signatory movements in Darfur in a bid to encourage them to join the peace process.

During its meeting with acting governor of Darfur, Mr Idriss Abdallah Hasan yesterday, the delegation praised the steps taken in regards to the implementation of the Abuja peace accord and confirmed its support for all the development projects in Darfur states in order to strengthen the peace process which is needed by the societies in Darfur.

On his side, the acting governor of Darfur gave the EU delegation a detailed briefing on the humanitarian and security situations in Darfur states as well as the progresses made in the development projects and humanitarian works such as education and health.

UN, African Union officials meet with non-signatories to Darfur peace accord

(*UN News; Rai AlShaab*) Senior officials from the United Nations and the African Union (AU) have met with the non-signatories to the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) to discuss next steps in the political process aimed at ending hostilities in the strife-torn region of Sudan, the UN Mission in the country said today.

Over the past week, the UN-AU Joint Mediation Support Team, led by the UN's Pekka Haavisto and the AU's Sam Ibok, has held talks with groups based in North Darfur and in Asmara, according to the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

The team met with Eritrean officials in Asmara to discuss the next steps of the political process as outlined in the road map presented by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's envoy, Jan Eliasson, which calls on all parties to cease hostilities and prepare for forthcoming negotiations.

Together with Eritrean officials, the team also met with First Vice President Salva Kiir in Juba in southern Sudan on 2 July to discuss the role of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the political process.

Meanwhile, Vice-President Salva Kiir will be travelling to Libya next Saturday for consultations over Darfur with the Libyan leader and to meet a number of leaders of the Sudanese armed factions there.

On regional efforts, an Advisor to President Affewerki of Eritrea has revealed that representatives of countries in the region with initiatives for peace in Darfur – Chad, Eritrea and Libya – will be meeting in Tripoli alongside representatives of the Sudanese government on the 15 and 16 July. The participants will meet to evaluate all ongoing efforts to bring the non-signatory factions on board.

Abdalla Jaber, an Advisor to President Affewerki, said that the Eritrean delegation to Sudan told the National Congress Party and the SPLM that some Arab groups from Darfur will also participate at the said meeting. He further pointed out that representatives of five non-signatory factions are now gathered in Asmara under a unified umbrella and are awaiting response from the African Union, the UN and other key players to respond to the regional efforts and cut short the road to urgent talks but are yet to receive a response.

Mr. Ban has said there are four main tracks in which the UN is addressing the Darfur crisis: humanitarian, political, peacekeeping and development.

At a press conference in Geneva yesterday, he called for stepping up the political process, which includes implementing existing agreements.

On the planned UN-AU hybrid peacekeeping operation, he said, "the people in Darfur have suffered too much and the international community has waited too long. It is now high time for us to take necessary action and I hope that the Sudanese Government will implement faithfully the commitment they have made."

An earlier statement in New York by the UN Secretary-General in which he called on the Sudan government to stop the violence in Darfur has drawn reactions from the Sudan government. Foreign ministry Spokesperson Ali el-Sadig said that the UN should focus on implementing the deal on the support packages instead of shoving more criticism on Sudan. The ball, he said, is now in the UN court.

Meanwhile in Accra, Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro said on Monday that attention must be paid not only to fighters but also civic players in Darfur. "Apart from the factions, there is also a need to be more inclusive," she told reporters. "There are women's groups and there are other civil society organizations and these have to be part" of the solution.

“This is a process that will take a bit of time but the two envoys have clearly set up a road map which we think is going fine and the United Nations is very much part of the support,” she said.

UN agencies seek funds to help hungry refugee children in Kenya

(*UN News – NEW YORK*) Three United Nations agencies today sought \$32 million from donors to help cut malnutrition rates which they warned have reached "crisis levels" among children under five living in refugee camps in Kenya.

A total of 237,000 refugees, mostly Somalis and Sudanese, live in camps at Dadaab and Kakuma, where the acute malnutrition rate among children under five years of age is above the emergency level of 15 per cent, according to a news release from the UN World Food Programme (WFP), which is launching the appeal with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"One in every five children under the age of five is so malnourished that they need special care, and some of them will die. This can't go on," said Marian Read, WFP deputy country director.

The UN agencies said the high rates of malnutrition persisted despite the fact that over the past two years WFP has provided 95 per cent of the general food distribution ration for refugees to meet the recommended minimum energy requirement of 2,100 kilocalories per person per day.

They said a complete package of assistance is needed to overcome chronic shortages in essential commodities such as firewood, energy-saving stoves and soap to ensure that refugees are not compelled to sell their food to meet the need for these items.

There is also an acute need for complementary foods such as groundnuts that provide extra nutrients, supplementary feeding for more children and therapeutic feeding to treat dangerously malnourished children.

The three agencies are also calling for better-staffed health facilities in the camps to help children constantly threatened by malaria and other diseases.

Over the past year, cholera, measles, meningitis and Kenya's first cases of polio in 20 years have been recorded in the camps, further aggravating the fragile nutritional status of young children, the agencies said.

UNICEF Country Representative in Kenya Olivia Yambi appealed for urgent support for the initiative, warning that this time of year was associated with the highest risk of malnutrition.

"In the camps, malnutrition is associated with at least half the deaths of children under five," she said.

"Even for those who recover, malnutrition curtails the entire development potential of these children. We are appealing for immediate help from donors so that as many children as possible can swiftly recover and grow up to lead healthy, productive lives."

Obstetric, Neonatal care training ends in Rumbek

(*SudanTribune.com*) The ministry of Health of the Government of Southern Sudan (MOH-GOSS) and the State MoH of Lakes State, in cooperation with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Southern Sudan programme, announced the end of the training on Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care.

This second series of training commenced on 4th July 2007 at Bros Hotel and Rumbek state hospital and has lasted for one month. UNFPA supported the MoH (GOSS) and the State MoH to roll-out this important training to the States. This training is a follow-up to the inaugural EmONE training of trainers which was held in Yei Civil Hospital during the months of February and March 2007.

The training ceremony was attended by Lakes State governor, Daniel Awet Akot, Minister of Education, Gordon Maker Abol, Minister of Information and communication Adak Costa Mapuor, Minister of Health Dr. Permiana Marial. [*Follow the link for the full text [Obstetric, Neonatal care training ends in Rumbek](#)*].

UN ponders Sudan ultimatum: accept peace force or face sanctions

(*Dpa – NEW YORK*) The UN is considering calling on the Sudanese government and warring parties in Darfur to accept peacekeepers and commit to peace or face possible sanctions, diplomats said Tuesday.

A new draft resolution calls for deploying nearly 20,000 military personnel and about 3,700 police to the troubled Darfur region for an initial 12 months, as part of a joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force.

The draft warns that the warring sides would face "further measures" in 90 days if they fail to fulfil their peace commitments and accept the terms of the UN resolution.

The tasks of the UN-African Mission in Sudan, known as UNAMIS, would include monitoring the 2005 peace agreement, preventing attacks and threats against civilians and seizing or collecting weapons. The deployment will be under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which allows use of force to carry out its mandate.

Diplomats in the UN Security Council warned that the document was preliminary and changes are expected.

The US in particular has demanded targeted UN sanctions against some Sudanese officials and has unilaterally imposed sanctions against at least 30 Sudanese individuals involved in the oil industry and the military.

Chinese UN Ambassador Wang Guangya, president of the Security Council for July, told reporters that Darfur would be a topic in the next month, though he has not yet scheduled any meetings.

China has so far opposed sanctions against the Sudanese government, and Wang said Tuesday that punitive measures against Sudan are not the right way to settle the Darfur conflict.

"They make the situation more complex," Wang said.

Wang brushed aside accusations that China is more interested in Sudan's oil reserves and other African natural resources than in helping to solve the ethnic conflict in Darfur conflict.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Sudan welcomes new African peacekeeping chief for Darfur

(AP; *AlAyaam, AlKhabar*) The Sudanese defense minister welcomed on Tuesday the new force commander for the African Union mission to Darfur and said Khartoum was "ready to cooperate with all parties" to achieve piece in the violence-wracked western Sudan region.

Gen. Martin Agwai, from Nigeria, arrived in Sudan a day earlier to replace another Nigerian at the head of the current 7,000-strong AU mission that began to deploy in Darfur in June 2004.

"Our government is ready to cooperate with all parties to achieve peace in Darfur," Hussein was quoted as telling Agwai by Sudan's official news agency.

Meanwhile, Dr. Muttrif Sidig, the Undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry who led the Sudan delegation to the Addis talks, said that the town of el-Fasher in North Darfur State has been chosen as base for the hybrid operations. Other sectors for the operations are Nyala and el-Fasher.

On the other hand, the head of the Sudan Federation of Workers' Union has warned that Sudanese workers will resist any foreign troops entering Darfur. Mr. Ibrahim Ghandour was addressing a rally of workers at Hassaheisa.

NCP leadership office convenes emergency meeting and discusses foreign role in forthcoming elections

(*AlRai AlAam*) The NCP has requested its Leadership Office to convene an urgent meeting today to discuss a number of issues.

According to sources, the meeting will be chaired by President Bashir and will discuss a report on foreign intervention in the forthcoming elections and reports of the different secretariats of the party.

Sudan oil commission states in favor of French Total

(*SudanTribune.com*) The parties to the CPA have agreed to allow French company Total to maintain the concessions of oil exploration in Block 5, a press report said today.

The *SMC* reports that the Sudan National Petroleum Commission has decided to not absorb the British White Nile oil company in the oil consortium working in Block 5.

The decision to exclude the White Nile was taken at the last meeting of the oil commission, and after receiving the joint partisan committee's recommendations, along with the option to appoint a new company (whether White Nile or other) instead of the previous company (Marathon) on a commercial basis. [*The full text of the report could be accessed through [Sudan oil commission states in favor of French Total](#)*].

Flash floods leave 2,500 homeless in Sudan

(*Reuters*) Flash floods in the Sudanese town of Rabak have made at least 2,500 people homeless with more rain expected, the Sudanese Red Crescent said on Tuesday.

"They have no shelter. There is a real risk of disease outbreaks," said Afaf Bukhari from the Sudanese Red Crescent. "They need tents, they need blankets and plastic sheeting. They need health units."

Hundreds of houses have been destroyed and the road to Rabak, south of Khartoum, was submerged due to heavy rains.

Reports of further flooding were already coming in from Sennar along the Blue Nile, Kassala in east Sudan, North Kordofan and Jazeera state south of Khartoum, Bukhari said.

Red Crescent staff were still awaiting details of the numbers affected in those areas. There were no reports of injuries or deaths.

GoSS

GoSS underplays 'merry-go-round' reshuffle

(*Gurtong.com*) A set of presidential decrees which has moved several prominent ministers out of cabinet was nothing more than a normal government reshuffle in order to renew momentum in government officials told Gurtong on Tuesday.

"The leader of the government has decided to have a small merry-go-round within the ministerial set-up and advisory set-up of the cabinet," said Benjamin Marial, minister for regional cooperation, "it is a prerogative of the president".

The move has taken Riek Machar's ministerial portfolio away from him in order to give him more time for his duties as vice president said Marial.

Former health minister Theophilus Ochang and Rebecca De Mabior who was Minister for Transport and Roads have been given positions as presidential advisors. Although now without budgets of their own, Marial said they had in fact gone up the ladder in their new posts which he claimed to be more senior.

But members of the public said there were 'no tears' over the loss of De Mabior's position and that they were pleased about the move-around which international journalists have called 'long-awaited'.

"Even though companies have been here for more than a year there's been no change even here in Juba," said David Gai who works for the government's humanitarian wing, the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, "they just put concrete in the potholes".

"She said she could do what John Garang had promised, he had the vision to link up all of Africa with roads, especially for the south that has few, but she talks more than she acts," noted another resident of the south's capital who also said that it was the general opinion that Machar did not have enough time for a ministry.

Ochang told Gurtong earlier in the year that the government has been struggling to pay a contract with Norwegian company Normecca of total value 160 million Euros to build and staff state hospitals and floating clinics. International analysts and donors have since called the contract disastrous and unaffordable.

"It was nothing to do with the Normecca contract, this contract was done in consultation with the president and the vice president so it was a decision on board," said Marial, "there is no issue of contracts in this reshuffle it is a pure government reshuffle".

The former finance minister Arthur Akuein Chol who is currently on bail after a period of house arrest, was also dismissed, in a move the presidential information office called 'perhaps unsurprising'. Investigations into his possible involvement in finance ministry corruption are ongoing.

(see the complete reshuffle on www.gurtong.net - Press Release)

South Sudan lawmakers to probe killing of 54 Budi in E. Equatoria

(SudanTribune.com) A panel from the southern Sudan lawmakers and some Southern Sudan official will travel to eastern Equatoria to investigate the killing of 54 people from Budi community by Toposa gunmen last May.

A team of eleven people including six MPs will leave tomorrow for Eastern Equatoria's Budi County to pay condolence to the aggrieved families on behalf of the parliament of southern Sudan. Also the panel will seek to find out what was the cause of massacring innocent women and children who were cultivating in their farm, the chairlady of Peace and Reconciliation Committee of southern Sudan legislative assembly who is also the chairperson of the select committee, has said.

MP Mary Nyaulang said her team has been authorized by southern Sudan legislative assembly to investigate circumstances that led to massacring in cool blood 54 and 11 wounded women and children by Toposa gunmen who shot at them using 12.7 machine gun, PKM, RPG, 60 mm Mortar and AKM rifle while cultivating on May 21st 2007.

The lawmaker further revealed that their mission will last for two days whereby they will be talking to massacred survivors, women leaders, chiefs' including youth in the affected areas for the purpose of establishing the real cause of massacring innocent women and children. That the trip is sponsored by government of southern Sudan in collaboration with UNMIS

Darfur

Political:

President Bashir visits North Darfur

(*AlRai AlAam*) The Governor of North Darfur State has revealed that President Bashir will be visiting the state to open a number of installations there.

Governor Osman Mohamed Yusuf Kibir says the state will also host this week a meeting of the Federal Council of Ministers during which the three states of Darfur will be presenting a number of concerns at the national and Darfur levels. He said that a parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim el-Tahir is also expected to tour the state early next week to appraise the security and humanitarian situation.

Former Darfur rebel group says willing to consider Libyan proposals

(*AlRai AlAam 3rd Jul. via BBC Monitoring*) The Justice and Equality Movement [JEM] has reiterated its appreciation of Libya's role in working out a peaceful solution to the Darfur problem.

Ahmad Husayn Adam, JEM's official spokesman said that his movement would deal seriously and positively with any Libyan proposal to solve the crisis, provided that the main criterion is the legitimate rights of the Darfur people "as we announced them in the road map during the meeting held by the UN and African envoys with JEM leaders in the areas it controls".

"No one should think they will take us on alone in order to weaken the others, for the negotiations will be under the UN and AU umbrella," he said. "In principle we talk with any side, including the government, but we are not going to strike any deals alone. Everything will be under the aegis of the UN and AU."

Security:

JEM military leader refuses Dr. Khalil's orders relieving him of duties

(*Akhbar Alyaum*) *Akhbar Alyaum* daily reports that JEM military commander, Abdalla Banda, has sent a message saying he is still the Military Commander for the JEM and the National Salvation Front.

He said that the JEM has its competent institutions and laws that do not allow any individual to just order a dismissal without mention of the reasons for such action.

Killers of Chadian president's son caught on video

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com) The hooded killers of the Chadian president's son were filmed on video surveillance cameras in the underground car park in France where his body was found, a judicial source said on Tuesday.

Brahim Deby was discovered dead in his car early on Monday near his home outside Paris. A post-mortem showed he was asphyxiated, probably by powder from a fire extinguisher. The prosecutor's office in the Paris suburb of Nanterre, which is handling the case, refused to comment on the video images saying the investigation was still on-going.

Le Monde newspaper reported that the video showed "several hooded men" attack Deby as he drove into the garage shortly before 7.00 a.m. (0500 GMT) on Monday.

The paper added that Deby was accompanied by a woman, but that she has not yet been traced.

Chad President Idriss Deby was believed to have wanted his son to succeed him, but this choice was widely unpopular, even by some of his own family, who viewed Brahim as unfit to govern.

The president sacked Brahim as his adviser in June 2006 after the then 27-year-old was arrested in a Paris discotheque for possessing an illegal firearm and drugs. He was given a six-month suspended sentence by a French court.