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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Main News

Presidency receives AEC report

(SUNA) - Presidency Minister Gen. Bakri Hassan Salih Tuesday received the report of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission on the progress of implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Chairman of the Commission Sir Derek Plumbly said in a statement to SUNA following handing over of the report to the Presidency Minister at the Republican Palace Tuesday that handing over of the report comes in implementation of the provisions of the CPA to acquaint the Presidency with it before reviewing its contents.

NCP and SPLM representatives to visit The Hague on Friday for consultation on Abyei arbitration

(Al-Sahafa) NCP and SPLM representatives will visit The Hague on Friday for more consultations on Abyei arbitration.

GoSS Presidential Affairs Minister Luka Biong said the roadmap opened a new page for addressing Abyei issue. He has referred to a number of issues which he viewed as violation of the roadmap such as SAF feet-dragging on withdrawal from the area, dispatch of 75 police personnel from Muglad to the area without the knowledge of SPLM and the presence of police personnel from outside the area. Mr. Luka said the roadmap represents the last chance for the two partners to address the issue.

AJMC in the Blue Nile investigating claims of SPLA weapons in the area

(Al-Khartoum) The AJMC meeting held in Damazin, Blue Nile day before yesterday, attended by SPLA, SAF, Security and UN, decided to conduct patrol to Kurmuk, Bodi and Samri to investigate allegations of SPLA weapons. The AJMC called upon SPLA to facilitate the work of the patrol.

SPLA: Government in the know of movement of military equipment in the Blue Nile

(Ray Al-Shaab) SPLA JDB representative Maj. Gen. Pior Ajang has ruled out Ethiopian attack against Sudan. There were no reasons for Ethiopia to wage war on Sudanese territories, he said. Both SAF and SPLA would defend the land if attacked, he added.

With regards to SPLA's movement of equipments in the Blue Nile, he said JDB knew about that. The tanks were shifted from Kurmuk to Qufa area, south of 1956.

He has denied any link between SPLA and Israel, saying such claims were intended to mobilize the Arab public opinion against SPLM to promote certain agenda.

President of the Republic suspends Pagan Amum pending investigation on remarks

(Akhbar Al Yom) Informed sources confirmed to the newspaper that President Bashir has issued a decree stripping Cabinet Affairs Minister Pagan Amum of his constitutional immunity. The President has ordered the formation of a committee to investigate Pagan Amum's remarks made at political symposium organized by Ajras Al-Hurriya newspaper recently.

It has also been confirmed that Pagan Amum is suspended as Minister pending the investigation.

Sudanese Civil Aviation says will allow Ilyushin and Antonov aircraft to fly

(Al-Ayyam) The Sudanese Civil Aviation Authority is authorized by the Presidency to allow Antonov and Ilyushin aircraft to resume flying pending check to ascertain safety standards. Meanwhile, the economic sector, at its meeting yesterday endorsed Sudanese Civil Aviation Bill, 2008 intended to organize aviation.

UN/Agencies

Sima Samar to meet tomorrow with Omdurman incidents chief investigator

(**Al-Rai Al-Aam**) UN Human Rights Rapporteur Sima Samar will depart Khartoum on Thursday and is determined to submit her regular report on situation of human rights to forthcoming meeting in Geneva. She will meet tomorrow with Justice Minister.

Samar is also expected to meet tomorrow with chief investigator of Omdurman incidents Maulana Babikir Abdul Latif to ensure human rights are guaranteed and is also scheduled to meet with the children involved in the recent attack on Omdurman. Sources told the newspaper that Samar would brief the government on the report she compiled during her visits to Darfur, Abyei and the meetings she held in Khartoum.

GoNU

North-Sudan Border Demarcation Committee is putting final touches

(**Al-Rai Al-Aam**) North-South Border Demarcation Technical Committee announced that it would complete drawing the border on paper by mid autumn and would draw the same on the ground by coming summer. Chairman of the committee Prof. Abdullah Al Sadiq told EU Ambassadors yesterday that the committee was putting the final touches and would submit its report to the Presidency.

US welcomes adoption of Sudan elections law

(**Sudan Tribune**) – The United States on Tuesday hailed Sudan's new election law, which paves the way for the first free ballot in 23 years in Africa's biggest state.

Sudan's parliament on Monday approved the measure, which will allow preparations for an election under terms of a 2005 peace deal which ended a north-south civil war and changed the way wealth and power are shared.

The National Elections Act of 2008 was approved by 350 votes and 14 opposed, while two legislators abstained. The total MPs who participated in the vote is 366.

"The United States welcomes the passage of the National Electoral Law by Sudan's National Assembly. This is an important step in paving the way toward credible and peaceful nationwide elections in 2009," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said in a statement.

British Foreign Minister arrives in Khartoum

(**SUNA**) - British Foreign Minister David Miliband arrived in Khartoum early Wednesday on an official visit to Sudan during which he will hold talks with government officials on bilateral relations and means of boosting them further. Deputy Director of the European Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ibrahim Awad Al-Barodi, said in a statement to SUNA the visit comes in the context of continuation of the Sudanese-British dialogue which started months ago. He pointed out that the talks between the two sides will tackled the issues of mutual concern and coordination between the two countries at the international forums besides Darfur issue.

Minni Minnawi accuses NCP of pursuing divide and rule policy

(**Al-Sahafa**) The Senior Presidential Assistant and Chairman of Darfur Transitional Authority Minni Minnawi has accused NCP elements, he did not name, of seeking to bury the DPA, threatening a "harsh reaction". Any agreement with NCP is just ink on paper because NCP is pursuing divide and rule policy, he told the newspaper on phone from the extreme north of Darfur. The Transitional Authority is almost frozen by the NCP, it maintains empty bank accounts.

Darfur

Sudan arrests lawyer of Darfur rebels, Defence Minister testifies before Omdurman incidents court

(**Sudan Tribune/Akhir Lahza**) — A human rights lawyer defending more than 30 people accused of participating in a Darfur rebel attack on Sudan's capital said on Tuesday he had been detained by state security and warned to drop the case.

"I was arrested by the Sudanese security for seven hours yesterday," lawyer Satie al-Hajj told Reuters. "They said this is a first and last warning

for you: don't carry on with this cause and don't say anything to the media."

Hajj is one of a team of prominent Khartoum human rights lawyers who have petitioned the constitutional court to stop the trials. They say three special anti-terrorism courts formed to judge the accused are illegal and unconstitutional.

Sudanese security said they were checking the report.

Hajj said state security officials had demanded: "You are Arab. Why do you defend these people from the Zaghawa?" He said he would return to court later on Tuesday to try to continue his defence.

On the other hand, Sudanese Defence Minister Gen. Abdul Rahim Mohamed Hussein testified yesterday, as part of defense witnesses, before the anti-terror court (4) trying JEM elements accused of attacking Omdurman. According to the defence Minister the fifth accused, Ibrahim Abaker Hashim, rang him up concerning a dispute over tribal post and they sent special plane to bring the accused to Khartoum but he did not come.

Sudan former PM reiterates position on ICC Darfur investigations

(Sudan Tribune) – Former Sudanese Prime Minister and leader of the opposition Umma party Sadiq al-Mahdi reaffirmed his support for International Criminal Court (ICC) Darfur investigations.

"Our position has been clear from the start. We supported the referral of the Darfur case to the ICC. There has been no change in that" al-Mahdi told Sudan Tribune.

Last May the Umma party and the ruling National Congress Party (NSCP) signed an agreement known as "National Reconciliation Agreement" which largely outlines a number of fundamental principles that both sides share the same views on.

The agreement has come under fire from other opposition parties who viewed it as a step towards a political alliance between the NCP and the Umma party, something which Al-Mahdi has strongly denied.

Darfur rebels to attend humanitarian workshop in Geneva

(Sudan Tribune) — A Geneva based conflict mediation organization will hold this week a three day workshop for Darfur rebel movements to

discuss key humanitarian issues in the troubled region and its responsibilities in this respect.

The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue organizes a humanitarian workshop in coordination with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) from 10 to 12 July on humanitarian issues and substantive humanitarian issues related to the peace talks.

The movements that will attend the Geneva meeting are the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) Unity Command.

The workshop aims at facilitating greater awareness of key humanitarian and related issues, and securing commitments to ensure improved protection of civilians in Darfur, as well as safe and secure access for all humanitarian organizations.

Besides Darfur rebel groups, UN agencies — OCHA, UNHCR, OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF — UNAMID, UNMIS, ICRC and IOM as well as independent experts will also take part.

Darfur rebel chief to visit US for talks

(Sudan Tribune) – The leader of a Darfur rebel group announced that he will be making his first visit to the United States this week.

"I will be meeting with US officials and organizations which stood for the cause of Darfuris and against the genocide that was and is still taking place" Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) told Sudan Tribune by phone from Paris.

"I am excited that I will be able to meet the American people and thank them for their overwhelming generosity and support of Darfuris all these years" he added.

The controversial rebel chief has frustrated international efforts for holding peace talks to resolve the 5 year conflict in Darfur saying he wants security on the ground first.

Some countries including Sudan, have pressed the French government to expel Al-Nur for boycotting Darfur negotiations.

Sudan talks to Chinese firms for help in Darfur oil exploration

(Sudan Tribune) — State-linked Chinese oil services companies are in talks to help Sudan exploit its crude reserves in its troubled Darfur region with the Sudanese army providing security, a company official confirmed Tuesday.

"Preparations are ongoing to launch a small campaign of 1,000 kilometers of seismic" works at Block 12A in Northern Darfur, Sudan's country manager at Ansan Wikfs, a partner of Sudan-owned Sudapet, Denis Rey told the Dow Jones.

Based in Cayman Islands, Ansan Wikfs Investments Limited was formed in 1991. The company has operations in Yemen and Sudan. Ansan is an independent oil and mineral resources holding company engaged in the acquisition, exploration, development and operation of petroleum and mineral properties.

The area to prospect is half the size of the Philippines. This would be the first exploration move deep into the region since conflict erupted in 2003.
