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(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

➤ **UN/ Agencies**

- Security Council says Sudan is at advanced stage in implementation of its obligations
- UN chief urges Security Council to authorize Darfur force
- France supports strong UN Resolution on Darfur Politics

➤ **GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)**

- International meeting on Darfur concludes with call for UN, AU role
- Sudan agrees to meet with key rebel factions
- Sudan commends positive results of Tripoli meeting on Darfur
- Egypt welcomes outcome of Darfur meeting
- Rebels urge UN support for Darfur field commanders meeting
- Abdul-Wahid criticizes Tripoli conference
- SPLM halts mediation efforts for Darfur
- Justice minister says institutions coordinate in investigations over sabotage plot
- US embassy in Sudan denies involvement in alleged sabotage plot
- Sudan delays payments of pipeline installments to India - report
- Sudan's FM praises Sudan-China relations
- Assessment and Evaluation Commission deplores slow pace on CPA-compliant legislature
- Misseiriya tribal chief vows to "turn Abyei into another Somalia"
- No conflict between Nuba and the Misseiriya
- NDA in consultations to name presidential advisor

➤ **GoSS**

- GoSS information minister turns down parliament summons
- Deputy Governor of Central Equatoria State visits Jabarona IDP camp
- Upper Nile finance minister decrees fiscal measures

➤ **Darfur**

- Rising costs threaten UN world food aid program
- Geneva fountain to be lit red for Darfur
- New rebel movement takes roots around el-Diein

- Five killed in attack on Sirba
- Sudan-Chad security committee to meet next month

➤ **Miscellaneous:**

- Police find body of Russian pilot in el-Obeid

Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Security Council says Sudan is at advanced stage in implementation of its obligations

(*AlHayat*) The Security Council has confirmed that the Sudan government is at an advanced stage in meeting its obligations towards the UN support packages to the AMIS. The Council described the June visit of its delegations to Sudan as positive.

Sudan's Permanent Representative to the UN has intensified contacts with member-states of the UN to push for a "Sudan-friendly" Security Council resolution on Darfur that complies with the provisions of the recommendations of the African Union Peace & Security Council in Addis Ababa and Abuja.

Ambassador AbdelMahmoud AbdelHaleem said he held talks on the draft yesterday with US representative Zalmi Khalilzada. Asked whether the resolution will be for a Chapter VII mandate, the Sudanese representative said that the issue is not much of a problem now. He said that the Security Council yesterday heard the reports of the representatives of Ghana and the US over the Security Council visit to Sudan. Their report hailed Sudan's acceptance to a Hybrid Operation for Darfur. [Follow the link to the full text of the Security Council Press Release [SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSES RECOMMENDATIONS ON DARFUR, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, CÔTE D'IVOIRE CONTAINED IN REPORT ON 14-21 JUNE MISSION TO AFRICA](#)]

UN chief urges Security Council to authorize Darfur force

(*SudanTribune.com* – 16 July, UNITED NATIONS) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the U.N. Security Council on Monday to authorize a 26,000-strong peacekeeping force for Darfur this week and called for a faster timetable to get troops on the ground and combatants to the peace table.

"We must now push the pace hard" on the military front and in pursuing a political solution to the four-year conflict that has killed more than 200,000 people and displaced 2.5 million, he told a news conference.

A draft resolution circulated last week by Britain, France and Ghana that would approve the "hybrid" African Union-United Nations force has run into strong opposition from some council

members and Sudan. The draft threatens "further measures" against combatants who obstruct peace efforts and raises other humanitarian and political issues.

South Africa's U.N. Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo called the draft "totally unacceptable," accusing the sponsors of throwing in everything "the sink, the kitchen." Sudan's U.N. Ambassador Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad said the resolution should be "more Sudan friendly" and drop "irrelevant" and "alien" issues like the threat of "other measures," which usually means sanctions.

Ban sidestepped the differences over the draft, telling reporters "I sincerely hope the Security Council will take the necessary action within this week."

He cited Sudan's unconditional acceptance last month of the "hybrid" force, the final phase of a three-stage U.N. plan to beef up the beleaguered 7,000-strong AU force now on the ground in Darfur. The draft resolution would authorized up to 19,555 military personnel, 3,772 international police, and 19 special police units with up to 2,660 officers for the AU-U.N. force.

The secretary-general said he has been told that several hundred international troops will be ready to deploy to Darfur by October.

"I'll push for September," he said.

"Above all we must remember that a peacekeeping force is only a first step," he said. "It must be accompanied by an enduring political agreement, and any political agreement must in turn be followed by development programs that go to the root causes of the conflict. Otherwise there can be no lasting solutions."

He also revealed that an advance United Nations team will be traveling to Darfur today to prepare the grounds for the Hybrid Operations.

France supports strong UN Resolution on Darfur Politics

(KUNA – 16 Jul. PARIS) The French government said on Monday that it was in favour of a strong UN Resolution on the deployment of a mixed United Nations-African Union force in Darfur and France will support the inclusion of "Chapter VII" in the Security Council text.

A draft resolution containing "Chapter VII" has already been submitted to the Security Council on July 12, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Pascale Andreani remarked.

Separately, the French official indicated that European Union Foreign Ministers would hold talks on July 23 on ways to "accelerate support" for the African Union mission and to examine the potential to deploy international troops in eastern Chad, on the border with Sudan. This would be done "on the basis of recommendations that will be made by the UN Secretary-General," the spokesperson added.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

International meeting on Darfur concludes with call for UN, AU role

(*Xinhua* – 16 July, TUNIS) A two-day international meeting on Darfur in the Libyan capital of Tripoli concluded on Monday with the final communiqué defining the United Nations and the African Union (AU) as the leading players on the issue alongside Sudan's neighbouring countries.

These constitute the main channels of consultations and negotiations on a solution, according to the document.

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It also unveiled a "road map" being prepared for the political solution to the issue.

The meeting also warned the non-signatory rebel movements that "any hindrance to the political process would be addressed through appropriate measures by the UN Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council."

The meeting, on the other hand, institutionalized the role played by neighboring countries like Chad, Libya and Eritrea. This formal recognition could lead to accord an important role to some countries rejected by the rebel groups.

The communiqué welcomed non-signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement to meet in Arusha, Tanzania, from Aug. 3-5 in preparation for negotiations.

Chinese Special Representative for Darfur Liu Guijin gave a positive evaluation to the development since the first international meeting on Darfur was held in Tripoli in April, saying China is behind the UN, the AU and regional countries in their efforts to resolve the Darfur issue.

Liu appealed for resumption of talks between the opposition groups in Darfur and the Sudanese government, while urging world attention to reconstruction in the region and action to deliver humanitarian aid. [*Follow the link to the full text of the Communiqué of the Second International Conference on Darfur* [TEXT: Statement of international meeting on Darfur peace process](#)]

Sudan agrees to meet with key rebel factions

(*Washington Post News Service* – 16 Jul. TRIPOLI) Representatives of the Sudan government told the international conference on Darfur held in Tripoli that the Sudanese government agrees to soon meet rebel groups who thus far have refused to join peace talks.

If the agreement holds, it will be an important step in re-launching a peace process that has stalled since those key rebel factions rejected the widely unpopular Darfur peace agreement struck last year. The so-called "non-signatories" will meet during the first week of August to prepare a unified position for talks with the government in late August or September.

"What we need is the non-signatories to come to some sort of agreement," said Sudan's deputy foreign minister, Elsamani Elwasila. "They have too many different leaders and changing demands."

Sudan commends positive results of Tripoli meeting on Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com*) The minister of state for foreign affairs, Al-Samani al-Wasilah, who is the head of Sudanese government delegation to the second international conference on Darfur, has commended the positive results and the spirit of goodwill at the conference.

Al-Wasila said the conference, whose aim was to seek ways of bringing peace to the Darfur region, was constructive, serious and frank. "I feel obliged to thank this effort and we must continue to maintain this spirit of responsibility," Al-Wasilah said.

The state minister further said "We are now at an important and developed stage which will bring about benefits for not only Sudan and its neighbors, but for the continent."

He stressed Sudan's determination to continue on this path, the official SUNA reported.

Egypt welcomes outcome of Darfur meeting

(*KUNA* – 16 Jul. CAIRO) Egypt welcomes the outcome of the international conference on Darfur, foreign minister Ahmad Aboul Gheit said in a statement following the conference.

The real success of the meetings, he said, was to address a single message from the international community to the conflicting parties in Darfur that the former was willing to help achieve a peace agreement as soon as possible.

Egypt would continue its support to peace and stability Darfur as well as in other parts of Sudan and in full coordination with the UN, the AU and major partners in the region, says Aboul Gheit.

Rebels urge UN support for Darfur field commanders meeting

(*SudanTribune.com* – 16 July, PARIS) The field commander of the Sudan Liberation Army, Suleiman Marjan, told Sudan Tribune by satellite telephone late in the evening that the United Nations and the African Union would better help peace realization in Darfur region if they support the holding of Darfur field commanders conference instead of backing fictitious groups created by regional actors.

He disclosed to Sudan Tribune that they informed an AU-UN delegation led by Sam Ibok and Pekka Haavisto last month of their need to gather the SLM/A commanders from the different parts of Darfur. He further added that they suggested to hold this meeting abroad in Kenya precisely.

Marjan, who is the top commander of the SLA troops in North Darfur, underscored that the delegation pledged to provide the necessary support but since they never had any contact from them.

"We urge the AU and the UN to support our efforts instead of giving money to countries that work to divide our people and create new bodies with no existence on the ground", Marjan said.

Commenting the result of the international meeting on Darfur peace process held in Tripoli, Marjan said that the choice of the representatives for the talks should not be determined in any case by the international community. Adding, "We are able to resolve our difference we just need the help of the UN to hold this meeting."

He also said that only the two main groups (SLM and JEM) should be convened to the peace talks.

Ahmed Tughod Lissan, a top negotiator for the Justice and Equality Movement told the AP yesterday "The influential (rebel) movements should be engaged in finding the solution and not small splinter groups that do not truly represent the Darfur people."

Abdul-Wahid criticizes Tripoli conference

(AlKhartoum) In his first reaction to the Tripoli conference on Darfur, opposition SLM leader AbdulWahid Mohammed said that his faction is in consultations with different splinter factions of the SLM in a bid to organize a meeting of military, IDP and refugee leaders in Chad, the DRC, Libya and Egypt. He said that SLM members in different parts of the world are also welcome to these discussions.

He said that the objective of these steps is to better articulate the views of the people of Darfur. He further pointed out that the issue of representation of the people of Darfur is the fundamental challenge to the forthcoming talks.

He called upon the international community to support these efforts.

SPLM halts mediation efforts for Darfur

(AlIntibaha) Sources report that VP Salva Kiir told a meeting with key SPLM officials that the US has expressed wishes that the SPLM halt mediation efforts to bring the Darfur non-signatory factions to a united position for talks with the government and to give time for the factions to prepare their political and military positions.

The sources report that he told the SPLM members that the SPLM will only carry out "tactical maneuvers" to avoid having a shaky position with the neighboring states.

The paper goes on to point out that the rift is getting wider within the SPLM leadership with a disgruntled Rebecca Garang, just out of a ministerial portfolio, seeking Ugandan arms supplies

for “her group”. The paper says she has failed to win President Museveni’s nod to her request for arms with the Ugandan leader pointing out that the step would weaken the SPLM/A.

The paper further adds that Mrs. Garang has then turned to “a military group loyal to her stationed across the borders in the DRC where they are guarding her gold mines.”

Justice minister says institutions coordinate in investigations over sabotage plot

(*AlRai AlAam*) The Minister of Justice says ongoing investigation with the suspects in the foiled sabotage attempt aim at determining whether or not to formally sue the suspects.

The minister said that the issue is multi-pronged and state institutions are working in full coordination so as not to harm anybody.

Meanwhile sources report that Sadiq el-Mahdi visited his detained cousin’s home where he held discussions with Mubarak’s son and a number of party members.

US embassy in Sudan denies involvement in alleged sabotage plot

(*AP – 16 July, KHARTOUM*) The American embassy in Khartoum has denied Monday allegations by Sudanese officials that the U.S. was involved in an alleged plot to destabilize the government.

"We categorically deny any connection with this alleged conspiracy," the U.S. embassy said in a statement.

Sudanese authorities arrested Saturday a prominent opposition figure, a former minister and some 15 other people saying they were planning to threaten "the country’s political and developmental stability," the official SUNA news agency said.

The U.S. embassy said it had noticed a statement in the media by top presidential adviser Nafie Ali Nafie "accusing the U.S. of involvement" in the alleged plot.

"We do not know if this plot is real, but it is a distraction of the real challenges facing Sudan" the embassy said, citing the "suffering of millions of innocent people" in Darfur and the government’s slowness in fulfilling a separate peace deal in southern Sudan.

Umma party officials and the opposition coalition have denied the allegations against al-Fadil and others.

Sudan’s council of ministers praised security services on Sunday for having arrested the alleged plotters"twenty four hours before they implemented their sabotage attempt". The ministers condemned "any attempt that threatens the country’s political and developmental stability, endangers the citizens’ safety or cripples the democratic process," SUNA said.

Security officials said al-Fadil had sought support from Libya. The officials said Libya had turned him down and informed Sudanese authorities.

Other officials had alleged a "great power" was involved in the alleged plot, but Ali Nafiewas the first to explicitly refer to the U.S.

Sudan delays payments of pipeline installments to India - report

(The Time of India – 16 July, NEW DELHI) India's relations with Sudan appear to have got into a knot over a petroproducts pipeline in that country built by OVL, the overseas investment arm of ONGC, The Times of India reported yesterday.

According to the Indian newspaper, Sudan is delaying payment of three installments towards the cost of the pipeline. It further expressed doubt of the payment of the next installment, that will become due on June 30, or paying interest for delayed payments.

OVL completed the 741-km pipeline connecting Khartoum refinery to Port Sudan in August 2005, two months ahead of schedule, at an investment of \$194 million. This included a \$15 million component for financing of pumping stations etc. As per agreement with OVL, Sudan's ministry of energy and mining was to pay back investment in 18 half-yearly equated installments of \$14,134,790 each.

The contract also lists as the first option the provision of ONGC Videsh recovering the installments by taking crude oil instead of cash. As per this clause, Sudan was to offer the oil three months before an installment became due to allow ONGC Videsh to tie up shipping and supply or trading arrangements.

Oil ministry documents show Sudan has not kept its word and has not allowed OVL to exercise the option of taking payments. [Follow the link to the full text [India-Sudan ties may sour over OVL pipeline](#)].

Sudan's FM praises Sudan-China relations

(Xinhua – 16 July, KHARTOUM) Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Lam Akol praised on Monday the relations between Sudan and China and Beijing's support to Sudan on regional and international forums.

The Sudanese foreign minister made the remarks to reporters at the end of a meeting of a Sudanese delegation that will accompany Sudanese First Vice President Salva Kiir Mayardit in his visit to China.

He disclosed that the meeting reviewed issues which would be discussed by the two sides during the visit for boosting further the relations between Khartoum and Beijing.

Meanwhile, Sudanese Minister of Energy and Mining Awad al-Jaz affirmed Sudan's keenness on promoting cooperation with China, especially in the fields of investment and establishment of joint projects for linking the north and the south parts of Sudan.

The Sudanese minister noted that the Sudanese first vice president's visit to China was considered as a profound shift in the bilateral relations and boosting joint cooperation between

the two countries. The Sudanese first vice president is to start his first visit to China on Tuesday, which will last for six days.

Assessment and Evaluation Commission deplores slow pace on CPA-compliant legislature

(*AlAyaam*) The Assessment and Evaluation Commission has criticised the slow pace in completing the measures concerning the CPA-compliant legislature passed by parliament.

Misseiriya tribal chief vows to “turn Abyei into another Somalia”

(*AlWifaq*) The *Nathir* [tribal head] of the Misseiriya, Mukhtar Babo Nimir, has threatened to turn Abyei into another Somalia should the US intervene on the Abyei question.

The leader was speaking against the backdrop of recent statements of the SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amoum who said the US should take over administration of Abyei until the parties manage to reach a solution to the problem of that region.

The Misseiriya leader pointed out that the Abyei region is part of Kordofan and is therefore part of northern Sudan and the south has no call on it.

He reiterated respect for the SPLM but pointed out that should the movement bring in the US, then the “Americans will find the Misseiriya waiting for them” to turn Abyei into a Somalia.

He said there are no clashes in the region and pointed out that it is the government that has to seek solutions to the Abyei question and not the SPLM alone.

No conflict between Nuba and the Misseiriya

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Commissioner for Laggawa Province has revealed that the Nuba and Misseiriya in the Abu Sunnut village area are not in conflict.

Misseiriya tribesmen had reported to the police that the Nuba attacked them killing two of their men but police investigations found no evidence of such a crime. Commissioner Mekki Kafi said it was a false claim aimed at destabilizing security in the area.

He warned bodies he did not name against instigating conflict between the various ethnic groups.

NDA in consultations to name presidential advisor

(*AlKhartoum*) The National Democratic Alliance of opposition forces is in intensive consultations to nominate an advisor to the President of the Republic as per a deal signed earlier in Cairo between the NDA and the Sudan government.

A prominent member of the NDA pointed out that the last two days saw consultations take place within the joint government-NDA team monitoring the implementation of the Cairo deal. The two sides agreed to expedite all steps necessary for the implementation of the deal.

GoSS

GoSS information minister turns down parliament summons

(The Citizen) Members of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly were surprised yesterday by the absence of GoSS information minister Samson Kwajje who was due to present his ministry's police framework and work plan.

Madam Rebecca Garang had noted that the date given for Minister Kwajje to appear before the House coincided with the closing of the SPLM Chapter Leaders' Conference but furious MPs pointed out that GoSS business has to overrule party work that the minister is engaged in. They said the reasons for the minister's absence must be found out by the House.

Two weeks since the GoSS legislative body summoned ministers to present their policy plans, only those of the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sports and of Regional Cooperation have been endorsed.

The GoSS Minister of Environment, Wildlife Conservation, and Tourism was the first victim of the exercise when he was chased out of the House by MPs who told him to develop a reasonable draft for his ministry.

Deputy Governor of Central Equatoria State visits Jabarona IDP camp

(Khartoum Monitor) The Deputy Governor of Central Equatoria State said his government is aware of the difficulties IDPs from the state are facing and that he is in Khartoum to enlighten them on the issue of voluntary return.

Deputy Governor Henry Danga who is also the state's Minister of Local Government denied accusations that Central Equatoria State does not care about its IDPs. He said that his government has contacted the IOM in Juba to transport the IDPs first to Juba and then onwards to the six provinces of the state. He added that women and children will be transported by air.

On security, he said that Lord's Resistance Army activities in the Equatorias have ceased.

On his part, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Kosti Manibe said he is happy to meet with his brothers the IDPs in Jabarona and urges them to return to southern Sudan. He pointed out that the voluntary returns program will last three years. In answer to concerns about extra luggage, the minister told concerned chiefs of Jabarona that river barges can be used to transport extra luggage of the returnees.

MPs accompanying the delegation underlined the need for the return of the IDPs for the sake of development.

Upper Nile finance minister decrees fiscal measures

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The Minister of Finance, Trade and Economic Planning in Upper Nile State issued a number of decrees freezing tax waivers and suspending payment of debts and assistance to individuals.

Minister Stephen Dhieu Dau pointed out that some individuals, companies and corporations have claims to the state and these claims are usually paid by the GoSS and reimbursed from the state's budget.

He also decreed that all payments be made through the internal auditing unit of his ministry.

Darfur

Humanitarian:

Rising costs threaten UN world food aid program

(*Canada.com* – 16 July, UNITED NATIONS) Rising costs are taking a bite out of the ability of the United Nations to help feed the world's starving, officials warned Monday.

Senior officials said a number of factors have converged at once, not least the trend to dedicate increasing amounts of farmland to crops for the production of bio-fuels rather than food.

Skyrocketing demand for food from China and India is also creating scarcity, while historically high oil prices are making it increasingly expensive to deliver supplies, officials say.

Even the falling value of the U.S. dollar in relation to other currencies is stretching the UN's emergency food-aid budget because the world body uses the American greenback to make purchases.

"All this has led to a tight operating environment for us," said Greg Barrow, spokesman for the World Food Program, which distributes emergency food aid for the UN, with the biggest current operations in western Sudan's Darfur and also throughout southern Africa.

"If prices continue to go up, we're going to have to talk seriously with donor countries to ask that they help plug the gap." [Follow the link for the full text [Rising costs threaten UN world food aid program](#)].

Political:

Geneva fountain to be lit red for Darfur

(*Tribune de Geneve* – 16 July, GENEVA) Geneva's landmark Jet d'Eau (Water Fountain) will be lit up in red for several hours on Tuesday to draw attention to the bloodshed in Sudan's Darfur region, the city's mayor said on Monday.

The centre-left city council took the decision following a proposal from an international lawyers' group, TRIAL, which campaigns for political leaders accused of genocide and other crimes against humanity to be brought to justice.

"We believe this action will prick some consciences and help break the silence around the drama in Darfur," Mayor Patrice Mugny said. "We hope that other major European cities will do something similar."

The Jet d'Eau, on an artificial promontory in Lake Geneva, has been a feature of the city skyline since 1891 and is illuminated after dark. It rises about 140 metres and is visible from the nearby Alps and Jura mountains.

Geneva, home to the European headquarters of the United Nations, the offices of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights and the U.N. Human Rights Council, is often dubbed the world human rights capital.

Security:

New rebel movement takes roots around el-Diein

(AlKhartoum) Informed sources reveal that a new rebel movement is taking root around el-Diein in South Darfur.

The sources say this new group has hijacked two vehicles of a UN humanitarian agency and other vehicles owned by the local government.

The sources add that the rebel group that goes by the name the "Movement of Truth to Reclaim Grievances" is spread in six camps around el-Diein and demand that government pay a sum of money for the years of war in southern Sudan.

Commissioner for el-Diein municipality, Talha Mahmoud Madibo, says the group was part of the Border Guards and have claims pertaining to pay and promotions. He said that efforts are underway to defuse the tension with representatives of the group who are expected to arrive in el-Diein shortly. He said that they also have demands pertaining to development, education and health services. These, he said, could be met through the state's five-year programme.

A tribal leader of the Rizeigat points out that this small group of rebels only represent themselves. He said efforts are underway to talk with them on the 25th of this month.

Five killed in attack on Sirba

(AlAyaam) The UN reports that an Arab militia group attacked the offices of local observer forces of the JEM Sirba, West Darfur, killing five.

The UNMIS News Bulletin reports that 12 armed men ambushed a convoy of 12 UN trucks 25 kilometers north of Habeela and on the road to el-Geneina.

Sudan-Chad security committee to meet next month

(AlSahafa) A meeting of the committee for monitoring the implementation of the Tripoli Declaration signed between Sudan and Chad held a meeting in Tripoli yesterday to discuss the outcome of the meetings of the joint security community held in Khartoum last month.

Also discussed were issues pertaining to the agreement on the deployment of military observers on the el-Geneina and Abeche borders of the two countries. Each side agreed to deploy 200 military observers on its side of the border.

The two sides also agreed to convene a meeting of their joint military committee in Abeche next month.

Miscellaneous:

Police find body of Russian pilot in el-Obeid

(AlWihda) The police in el-Obeid found yesterday that body of a Russian pilot dangling at the end of a bed sheet tied to the ceiling of the pilots' mess he and others had occupied.

Four of his colleagues with whom he was sharing the mess and a number of neighbours have been detained and the body taken to the mortuary to investigate the reason of death.