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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN-AU in consultations in Addis next Monday on hybrid operations

(*AlSahafa* – July 23, KHARTOUM) The UN and the African Union will engage in a new round of consultations next Monday in Addis Ababa to set plans for the implementation of the hybrid operations for Darfur.

Quoting the UNMIS News Bulletin of July 22, 2007, the paper said that the forthcoming meeting is a follow-up to the meeting of Secretary-General Ki-moon and Chairperson Konaré held earlier on July 13 this month.

WHO to launch massive immunization campaign in Darfur and areas bordering Chad and CAR

(*SMC* – July 22, KHARTOUM) The WHO says it has started preparations to launch an immunization campaign against the six childhood diseases targeting children under five years of age in the Darfurs and the areas neighbouring Chad and the CAR.

A prominent WHO official says vaccines have been sent to the Darfur region in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Coverage on the Second Day of President's tour of the Darfurs

(*The local press*) A meeting of the federal Council of Ministers in el-Fasher yesterday saw the cabinet endorse the performance reports for the 3 states of Darfur for the year 2006 and issue resolutions confirming commitments to the implementation of the DPA, to consolidate state control and encourage returns.

The President said that the meeting of the Cabinet in el-Fasher reveals the real situation on the ground in Darfur and dispels the “worst humanitarian crisis” as portrayed by the Western media.

He showed that his tour of Darfur and his helicopter flyovers showed that most people in Darfur enjoy security and go on carry on with their normal occupations, especially agriculture. He said that the problems of Darfur are on the way to being resolved and that government has it as a priority of business. Towards that end, the government will embark on a three-pronged program to resolve the problems. These will cover:

- support for efforts for the implementation of the security measures and to consolidate state control,
- support the voluntary returns programs of IDPs,

- encourage the non-signatory factions on board the peace process.

The president said he was convinced there are some field commanders out there who want to come on board the peace process. Welcomed all those who signed in peace – the last of which is Ibrahim Yahia – and said there are negotiations underway with a group from the JEM in el-Geneina and a number of field commanders in North Darfur.

In meetings yesterday with a group of representatives of the IDP communities of Abu-Shouk and el-Salaaam camps, President Bashir said described the IDP camps as Darfur's main problem. Said the end of the year will see the camps emptied of IDPs and the rebel factions brought on board the peace process.

On his part, Governor Yusuf Kibir of North Darfur State said that security is the main concern in North Darfur. He called for the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and pointed out that his government foots the food, accommodation and transportation bills for the Darfur Peace Agreement signatory factions. He also complained of delays in the implementation of the security arrangements of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

He also lamented that the SLM does not control the movement of its members nor those of the members of the non-signatory groups in areas controlled by the SLM.

The governor also laments that donors have not fulfilled their commitments to the Darfur Peace Agreement.

On his part, Governor Ali Mohamed of South Darfur State said voluntary returns of the IDPs is necessary for stability and security in the region. He said that about 12,000 IDPs have returned home.

In a mass rally at el-Fasher Stadium, the President declared year 2007 as the "Year of Peace for Darfur" and urged the non-signatory factions to join the peace process so all could turn to rehabilitation. He warned that western forces were attempting to split the people of Darfur in a way that was similar to what was happening in Iraq, calling on Darfur people not to give a chance for these western forces.

The President accused US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown of exaggerating Darfur's problems in order to hide their "failure" in Iraq.

"No American or British official dares announce a visit to Iraq until it's already over," he said, and also criticized unnamed humanitarian organizations working in Darfur.

"Some of these organizations collect money in the name of Darfur without spending it on the displaced and use the crisis for mercantile purposes," he charged.

"We will not accept the camps for the displaced being turned into museums exhibiting human distress to the eyes of the world," he said.

"We would like to stress that the situation in Darfur is not the (world's) worst humanitarian tragedy, as western media describe it," President Omar al-Bashir told thousands of supporters at a rally in the North Darfur state capital of El Fasher after holding his Cabinet meeting.

Al-Bashir said his three-day tour across Darfur showed that insecurity was not prevalent there anymore.

Sudan rejects use of force by UN-AU Darfur mission

(*Reuters* – July 22, EL-FASHER) Sudan on Sunday said it rejected part of a draft U.N. Security Council resolution that would give joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping troops the right to use force in their Darfur mission.

"We have reservations regarding interpretations made by other parties... regarding the hybrid operation," interior minister Taha told Reuters.

Asked if he rejected the U.N.'s Chapter VII mandate, Taha said: "Yes of course. That is a problem. There's no way they can enforce anything on us. This is a free state." [*Read more: [Sudan rejects use of force by UN-AU Darfur mission](#)*].

Interior minister announces 30% drop in crime rates in Darfur

(*AlSahafa/SUNA* – July 23, EL-FASHER) Interior minister el-Zubeir Bashir Taha confirms that reports of the three states of Darfur have shown astonishing achievements in the health, energy, water, electricity, transport, education and communications domains.

He said that the peace agreement has brought about a climate of partnership and cooperation that has led to the realization of security and stability in Darfur.

The minister said performance reports from the Darfurs indicate that there is a considerable improvement in the security situation. Statistics for 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 indicate a drop of 30%, 75% and 40% in crime rates respectively. This, he says, is a sure sign that there is security and stability in Darfur.

Egypt's police kill Darfuri woman trying to enter Israel; Ministry of Interior aggrieved on the incidence

(*SudanTribune.com; AlSahafa; Haaretz.com/AP* – July 22, SINAI) Egyptian police yesterday shot and killed a Sudanese woman and seriously wounded four others in the Sinai Peninsula as they tried to sneak into Israel, an Egyptian police officer said.

Egyptian police have arrested and wounded many refugees trying to enter Israel from Egypt, but Haja Abbas Haroun's death was the first of its kind.

Haroun, 28, was killed instantly by police gunfire, while four others, including a woman and young girl, were critically wounded and taken to a local hospital, said Capt. Mohammed Badr of the northern Sinai police force.

The border guards arrested 22 refugees who were also seeking political asylum in Israel, Badr added. Eighteen refugees, including Haroun and three of the wounded, were from Darfur. The rest were from Eritrea and the Ivory Coast.

The incident took place in the central Sinai town of Al-Aouja, 62 miles south of Rafah.

Badr said the refugees had paid thousands of dollars to smuggle their way into Israel, but their traffickers left them near the border and fled just minutes before the police arrived.

The Minister of Interior has expressed regret on the reports and state minister Alieu Ajang accuses Jewish organizations of capitalizing on the condition of the refugees and of encouraging them to migrate to Israel while the State of Israel rejects such immigrants and brands them spies for the Khartoum government.

The state minister pointed out that authorities in Egypt arrested around 60 Sudanese who attempted the border crossing in the last two months alone. He says some West Africans try to make it across posing as refugees from Darfur and that some of these even have false Sudanese documents. The state minister further added however that most of those who try the crossing are from Darfur and southern Sudan.

World Bank and donors pledge support for Census Commission; West Darfur governor pledges to remove obstacles facing fifth population census

(Sudan Vision; Khartoum Monitor) The Wali of West Darfur State, Abul-Gasim Al-Haj, has pledged to remove any obstacles that would hinder the Fifth Population Census in the state. This came when the Wali received in his office a delegation of the federal Central Statistics Organ which was headed by its General Director, Prof. Awad Haj Ali, who got acquainted with the current preparations for launching the Fifth Population Census in the state.

On the other hand, the GoSS, represented by the Minister of Trade and the Acting minister of Finance, held a meeting in Khartoum yesterday with representatives of the World Bank.

The GoSS team urged support for the census project scheduled to start in January 2008. the World Bank pledged to support the census project with an amount of about \$30 million to be paid in instalments with effect from the current month. Representatives of donor states also pledged support for the project.

Participants to the meeting included key figures of the GoNU and the GoSS and representatives of donor states.

Parties continue questions over status of redeployment

(*AlSudani; Rai AlShaab*) Koual Diem Koual, Spokesperson for the SPLA, says that the SPLA is waiting to hear from the political leadership in southern Sudan following a deadlock with the SAF over the force supposed to guard the oilfields.

Speaking yesterday to Southern Sudan Television, the SPLA Spokesperson revealed that the SPLA had tabled two proposals at the meeting of the Joint Defence Board in Khartoum in a bid to transcend the differences. He said that the proposals were that a joint force made up of the JIUs from Equatoria and Bahr-el-Ghazal take over the task of protecting the oilfields or that a joint force of the SPLA and the SAF be formed to take over the task.

He criticised the SAF for its position on the issue and described their presence at the oilfields as a violation of the CPA. He confirmed that the SPLA has indeed redeployed from the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile areas.

On its part, the SAF has dismissed statements by some SPLA leaders regarding redeployment of SPLA elements back south.

SAF Spokesperson Mjr. Gen. Osman Mohammed el-Aghbash says that 35.000 SPLA elements are currently presence in Blue Nile area and 22.000 more are in Nuba mountains. He explained that this figure was released by the CJMC presided over by the United Nations Mission in Sudan and added that those who doubt those figures may refer to the United Nations mission to verify.

627 IDPs travel by air to southern Sudan

(*Sudan Vision*) The International Organization for Migration, since 10th July when it began its air operation under the Joint Return Plan (GoNU, GoSS, UNIOM), has provided pre-departure medical screening and transportation assistance to a total of 672 IDPs from Khartoum to Yambio, Tombura and Juba. The air operations will continue until the beginning of August.

A total of 1600 IDPs are expected to return to the South from Khartoum with IOM under this air operation.

To date, IOM has provided pre-departure medical screening and transport assistance to more than 43,900 IDPs since the Joint Return Operation began in February 3, 2007.

University dons call off strike

(*The Citizen*) Lecturers from the three universities in Southern Sudan have picked up their tools they downed a week ago after they were paid.

The dons are still demanding arrears owed since April 1, 2004 when a new salary structure should have been effected.

Lawyers' fraternity condemns muzzling of press on the issue of sabotage attempt

(*AlAyaam*) The Democratic Alliance of Lawyers issued a statement yesterday condemning the continued ban by authorities on reporting on issues of importance to public opinion ... the latest episode being the muzzle on reporting on the alleged sabotage attempt on the excuse that it would prejudice due process of the law.

The alliance of barristers noted that such measures hinder the efforts for a democratic transition and called on authorities to stop such practices and respect the provisions of the CPA and the National Interim Constitution.

Prosecutor reveals details of killing of a citizen in police custody

(*AlRai AlAam*) The Prosecutor at the Khartoum East Courts has filed his report in the case of the killing of an inmate at the Khartoum East police cells. The body was dumped at a remote part of Omdurman.

Members of the Criminal Investigation Department are accused of tying the deceased (who was in the cell on charges of theft of mobile phones) to a tree at the police compound and depriving him of food and drink while beating him up with plastic pipes within sight of fellow inmates.

The police found his decomposed body after three days of search when his sister reported he was not at the police cell. The culprits have filed in confessions. An earlier case was filed against the culprits for allegedly allowing the deceased to escape from the cell earlier.

Sudan opposes attempts of Taiwan to join United Nations

(*Xinhua* – July 22, KHARTOUM) The Sudanese government announced on Sunday its opposition to all attempts and activities of Taiwan to join the United Nations by any means and under any name.

"The Sudanese government has been sticking to a clear and definite position on the Taiwan issue since the diplomatic relations were established between Sudan and the People's Republic of China," a spokesman of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry Ali al-Sadig told Xinhua in an interview.

The interview came following a meeting between Chinese Ambassador in Sudan Li Chengwen and Under Secretary of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry Mutrif al-Sadig.

During the meeting, the Chinese ambassador briefed the Sudanese side on the related developments of the Taiwan issue and elaborate on the stern position of the Chinese government.

GoSS

China pledges 20 million Yuan for South Sudan reconstruction

(<http://Miraya> on July 23) In talks on mutual cooperation between the two countries, VP Kiir expressed to his Chinese counterpart the view of the government of south Sudan on developing the infrastructure in the south.

The Chinese Vice President assured his country's eagerness to contribute to the construction of southern Sudan. The Chinese official praised the partners of the Government of National Unity for their commitment to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and offered 20 million Chinese Yuan to help reconstruct the south.

Cholera cases reported in Wau

(Sudan Vision quoting OCHA News) A Cholera outbreak is confirmed in Wau capital of Western Bahrel-Ghazal State, in two payams of Wau South and Wau North of Wau County.

WHO Epidemiological and Ministry of Health officials have conducted an assessment and preliminary results from the assessment revealed that the source of transmission could be the lack of safe water and poor sanitation in the area.

So far 90 cases and 10 deaths are reported since the onset of the outbreak from 5 - 15 July. WHO/MOI and OCHA have airlifted supplies to Western Bahr El-Ghazal to support the State MOH in containing the outbreak. The Epidemic Preparedness and Response task force in Wau have developed an action plan aiming at improving the case management, surveillance and social mobilization education. MSF-France is looking at possibilities to open the cholera treatment centre (CTC) in Wau. In the meantime WHO Epidemiologist has started training the health workers in case management and strengthening surveillance systems in primary health care facilities level.

Toposa MP calls for disarmament in South Sudan's Eastern Equatoria

(SudanTribune.com – July 22, JUBA) A member of parliament from the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly has urged to disarm simultaneously Eastern equatorial tribes in order to create conducive environment for peace and coexistence between the different communities in the region.

The MP appealed upon both the GoSS and the Government of Eastern Equatoria State to organize a conference for disarmament of the Toposa, Didinga, Buya, Otuho, Murle including bordering countries of Kenya and Uganda so that a simultaneous disarmament program is drawn as opposed to the than disarming of only one community. [*Read more: [Toposa MP calls for disarmament in South Sudan's Eastern Equatoria](#)*].

UN peacekeepers to deploy in north-eastern DR Congo

(<http://Miraya> on July 23) UN peacekeepers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have announced that they were deploying to the northeast of the country to try to intercept incoming Lord's Resistance Army elements entering via Sudan.

A contingent of 80 Moroccan peacekeepers have been deployed at Ngundu, near the border with Sudan, for a week already, said that MONUC's military spokesperson, Mjr. Gabriel de Brosses.

De Brosses added that the UN mission would repatriate any Lord's Resistance Army rebels found inside the country, respecting the terms of the Juba peace process.

Darfur

President Bashir inaugurates Sobaira airport and a number of development projects

(*Sudan Vision* – July 23, EL-GENEINA) The runway at the Shaheed Sobiara Airport in el-Geneina will today receive its first airplane carrying the President of the Republic and a number of the ministers of the Government of National Unity.

One of the largest airports in western Sudan, Sobaira Airport will be Sudan's gateway to the western part of Africa as it receives large planes coming from Khartoum on their way to the western part of the continent.

While in el-Geneina, the President will inaugurate a number of services and development projects. These include the el-Geneina Military Hospital – the largest hospital in the state, the first two student boarding houses constructed by the Students Development Fund and the inter-town asphalted roads. He will also address a large popular gathering of the different groups of the city's population.

Observers consider President Al-Bashir's visit as a direct practical response to those who raise doubts about the stability and security of humanitarian conditions in Darfur.

Political:

SLM commander denies reports on leading a Darfur faction

(*SudanTribune.com*- July 22, EL-FASHER) A rebel field commander denied reports describing him as a leader of a rebel faction in Darfur.

Speaking to Sudan Tribune by satellite telephone from Darfur, leading rebel field commander Jarelnabi Abdelkarim said he never presented or described himself as leader of a SLM/A faction. He further said the unity of the group remains his main concern.

Jarelnabi stressed that the unity of Darfur's main group is crucial for the success of the peace process undertaken by the African Union (AU) and the UN. He also praised AbdulWahid's call for the international community to support a meeting for the SLM/A groups before the Arusha meeting and cautioned that it is imperative to recognize Abdulwahid al-Nur as the legitimate leader of the movement.

The rebel commander disclosed that all the SLA field commanders are in contact on the ground and coordinate their actions together without consideration for any political leadership saying "we want this spirit to be also true within the political leadership of the movement. [[Read more: SLM commander denies reports on leading a Darfur faction](#)].

Security:

SAF denies attack on West Darfur

(AlHayat) The SAF has denied reports that it raided villages in West Darfur. The Office of the SAF Spokesperson noted that they have received no complaints of such attacks but adds that the SAF will investigate these allegations.

The SAF was responding to recent statements by Louise Arbour calling for protection for resident of the Bir Degieg area. Reports quote her as having said that armed men donned in military attire carried out rapes and abductions in those areas. She also called on the government to meet its obligations of establishing permanent police posts in the village and to investigate these attacks.

Armed group stops train in South Darfur

(Rai AlShaab) An armed group killed a citizen last Saturday a citizen and hijacked three trucks from Abu-Jabra town. The group also blocked the railway line between Abu-Jabra and Adeela and stopped the train that was heading for Khartoum. A citizen in the train was robbed of his Thuraya phone and the train's telegram machine was also taken in addition to some weapons collected from a posse that chanced around the area during the incident.

The person killed was said to have rejected request by the gunmen that he hand over the gun he was carrying.

Europe plans Darfur border force

(BBC.co.uk) The European Union has taken the first step towards sending a force to countries neighbouring the Sudanese conflict in Darfur.

European foreign ministers in Brussels authorised their military staff to draw up plans for an operation to deploy in Chad and the Central African Republic.

The move is to support a proposed United Nations peacekeeping mission.

France, which has a large military presence in eastern Chad, would take a major role in any European force.

Arab militia, operating from Darfur, have been attacking villages in Chad and the Central African Republic for months, causing tens of thousands to flee their homes.

Amid the instability, banditry has thrived and there has also been fierce fighting between local rebels and government forces.

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, said he thought the mission should focus on internally displaced Chadians. "They are probably the Darfur victims who are the least taken care

of, the displaced persons," he told Reuters news agency as he arrived at the EU foreign ministers' meeting. [*Read related article* http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/95440.pdf; EU Force to Chad: Include protection for displaced civilians in Eastern Chad].