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By Public Information Office

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Main News

President Bashir: investigations reveal involvement of PCP in attack on Omdurman

(Reported by all dailies) The interview of President Bashir by Al-Jazeera is the main news of almost all local daily newspapers of today.

Asked about JEM attack on Omdurman, the President said JEM was the military wing of Turabi-led Popular Congress Party (PCP) and their goal was to overthrow the government, they were not fighting for Darfur.

With regard to GoNU plan to resolve the problem in Darfur, the President said they were keen on resolving the problem through negotiations with the movements within the framework of UN-AU mediation and some regional countries.

Asked about obstacles hindering deployment of UNAMID, he said they had accepted resolution 1769 for deployment of African troops. African countries offered sixteen contingents and what was actually required were eight battalions. Despite the African offers, UN decided to bring troops from Thailand and Nepal without consulting with the Government. The process is being delayed because of insistence on troops from Thailand. The blame should be put on UN.

In his response to a question concerning relationship between NCP and SPLM, he said they had sought to unify national ranks and to make unity attractive but that was not forthcoming due to lack of cooperation and coordination between GoNU and GoSS. The government in southern Sudan was run by the SPLA military intelligence. The people in southern Sudan have not benefited from CPA despite the fact that SPLA has received its full share of wealth. The majority of southerners support unity. SPLM friends imposed sanctions on Sudan Government but when SPLM became part of the Government it failed to convince them to lift it.

With regard to Abyei, the President has commended the roadmap for resolving Abyei problem describing it as a way-out.

Asked about ongoing efforts for national reconciliation, the President said the present accord and rapprochement was unparallel. The political forces participating in the government are larger in number and even those outside the government entered into agreements with the government particularly Umma party.

In his response to a question whether Sudan government reached an agreement with the SC during their recent visit, the President said they had explained to them Sudan position. If the problem is the implementation of resolution 1769, then we have done what is required to be done by us. Preambles of all SC resolutions focus on sovereignty and unity of countries but in reality it is disregarded. That is the problem between SC and us. This is their third visit to Africa which is good but it is not only Africa that is encountering problems. Why they do not go to Gaza, Iraq or Afghanistan. Darfur became a focus to divert attention from what is going on in Gaza.

Asked why dialogue between Sudan and America suspended, he said it was Washinton's dication.

UN/Agencies

UNMIS Abyei seeking approval of local authorities to open office in Muglad

(Al-Intibaha) UNMIS Abyei (South Kordofan) sought the approval of local authorities to open an office in the town of Muglad to enable it to carry out its tasks with regard to security and development in the area.

The Administration of Abyei Commission strongly criticized UNMIS for lack of focus on developmental projects .

On the other hand, Messeriya and Dinka IDPs of north Abyei have expressed their readiness to return to their areas as soon as there is security and development in the twon.

UNAMID: plan underway to deploy 80% of troops by the end of the year

(Al-Ayyam) UNAMID spokesperson Nouredine Mezine said UNAMID charted a plan to expedite troop deployment to reach 80% by the end of this year.

However, he said the political process was the most important approach adding that UNAMID was making efforts to create an atmosphere conducive to the success of the peace process.

GoNU

Sudan Government urge UNHCR to protect Sudanese in IDPs camps in Chad

(Al-Watan) Sudan government formally urged UNHCR to take necessary action to protect Sudanese IDPs and refugees against coercive recruitment by Chadian Government.

Commissioner of Refugees Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Al-Aqbash said protection of IDPs and refugees was the responsibility of UNHCR to prevent their involvement in military activities.

IGAD summit condemns JEM attack on Omdurman

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The summit of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) concluded yesterday in Addis condemned the treacherous JEM attack on Omdurman and called on the non-DPA signatories to continue dialuge and negotiations to reach a comprehensive peace agreement in Darfur.

Political forces sign memorandum, asking meeting with the Presidency on elections Act

(Al-Ayyam) (The opposition political forces have demanded a meeting with the Presidency in presence of civil society organizations for consultation on the elections Act.

A memorandum signed by 17 political parties following a meeting they held stated that they would remain stick to their demands with regard to Electoral Act.

They declared their rejection to attempts to pass the Act by mechanical majority in the Parliament particularly that the MPs were nominated.

The political forces were demanding that geographical and proportional representations should be 50% each.

Minnawi-led SLM threatens to withdraw from GoNU

(El Sharia El siasi) Minnawi-led SLM has threatened to withdraw from the Government if the NCP fails to implement what was agreed upon in Abuja.

The movement said the agreement signed with the Government had not been implemented.

George Bush to visit Sudan before the end of the year

(El Sharee El Siasi) Sources said President George Bush might visit Sudan to discuss a range of issues particularly Darfur before he quit the White House.

However, Sudan Government announced that it received no notification about US President visit to Sudan. Foreign Office spokesperson Ali Al Sadiq said such visits were arranged through diplomatic channels and they had no information about that.

Eduward Lino is likely to be named chief of joint administration in Abyei

(Al-Sahafa) The newspaper has learned that consultations were conducted in Juba to select Edward Lino chief of joint administration in Abyei.

NCP holds reservations on Edward Lino and accused him of having created problems when he was appointed by FVP Salva Kiir.

South Africa President to visit Sudan for talks on peace and Darfur

(ST) June 14, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — South Africa President Thabo Mbeki will visit Sudan on June 17 and 18 for talks with Sudanese president and his first deputy on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and Darfur force.

President Mbeki will hold talks with the Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir in Khartoum and then fly to Juba to meet the First Vice President Salva Kiir Mayadrit.

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad said that Mbeki would focus on the problems threatening the CPA implementation between the former Southern rebels and the government which was signed in 2005.

The CPA parties failed to implement Abyei Protocol after the rejection by the National Congress Party of the findings of international experts to define and demarcate the border of the disputed area.

Following heavy clashes during last May the parties agreed on June 8, to establish an interim administration and to refer their dispute to an international arbitration tribunal.

Mbeki will also discuss problems preventing the full deployment of a United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission in Sudan's Darfur region.

The 26000 stronghold troops has only around 9000 peacekeepers on the ground and the hybrid mission still lacks major capacities that will seriously compromise its ability to its mission. Observers say it faces the same fate of the African mission.

In April 2007, President Mbeki visited Khartoum and Juba where he held talks with al-Bashir and Mayadrit on the CPA implementation and Darfur.

Sudan to host IGAD meetings

Addis Ababa, June 14 (**SUNA**) - Ethiopia has received the chairmanship of IGAD organization from Kenya as Engineer Mahboub Mohamed, a Kenyan national, assumed the post of the Executive Secretary of IGAD, succeeding Dr. Attallah Hamad Bashir.

Sudan declared that it would host the IGAD meetings before the end of current year. The 12th IGAD summit adopted in Addis Ababa Saturday the recommendations of the ministerial council that focused on boosting peace and security in the countries of the region and realizing economic and social development.

Minister of National Defence holds talks in Cairo with his Egyptian counterpart

Cairo, June 14 (**SUNA**)- Minister of National Defence Gen. Abdel-Rahim Mohamed Hussein started Saturday a visit to Cairo during which he is to hold talks with his Egyptian counterpart on boosting joint cooperation between the two countries. The minister will brief the Egyptian officials on developments of peace in Sudan.

Joint force to deploy Monday in Sudan's Abyei

KHARTOUM (Reuters) - A joint north-south force will begin deploying on Monday in Sudan's disputed oil-rich region of Abyei to end violence which has killed dozens and forced up to 50,000 people from their homes, its commander said on Sunday.

The battalion, made up of 320 troops from the southern army, known as the Sudan People's Liberation Army, and 319 from the northern Sudan Armed Forces, will train for 10 days before starting patrols, its commander Valentino Tokmac said.

"We will start taking the forces ... of the battalion from tomorrow onwards," Tokmac told Reuters. "All the forces of the joint integrated unit will be fully in Abyei by June 18."

Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and southern leader Salva Kiir had previously agreed to replace northern and southern troops in the town with a new "joint integrated unit" made up of soldiers from both sides.

The two said earlier this month they would ask international arbitrators to solve the Abyei dispute, which many feared could escalate into civil war. Bashir and Kiir said they would decide in one month on which global body would help them reach agreement over the boundaries and other fundamental issues.

Abyei's borders were left undefined in the 2005 peace deal that ended two decades of north-south war and created a national coalition government of the northern National Congress Party and the southern Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). The Sudan People's Liberation Army is the armed wing of the SPLM.

At stake is control over a large part of Sudan's oil wealth -- Abyei town is surrounded by lucrative oilfields connected by a key pipeline that runs through the disputed territory.

Last month, a local dispute escalated into sporadic, often heavy fighting between northern and southern troops in the town.

[GoSS](#)

[Riek Machar: efforts continuing to convince LRA leader to sign agreement with Government of Uganda](#)

(AI-Ayyam) GoSS Vice President Riek Machar confirmed continuation of mediation to convince LRA leader to sign an agreement with the Government of Uganda.

He said Government deployed troops along borders with Congo in the areas close to LRA areas.

[Darfur](#)

[Europe urged to sanction Sudan over Darfur suspects](#)

(ST) June 14, 2008 (BRUSSELS) — The European Union has been urged to impose sanctions on Sudan over its refusal to apprehend two men accused of crimes against humanity in the country's deeply troubled western province of Darfur.

Foreign ministers from the EU's 27 governments will meet Jun. 16 to discuss the Khartoum government's non-compliance with the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Last year the ICC issued arrest warrants for the arrest of Ahmed Haroun, Sudan's minister for humanitarian affairs, and Ali Kosheib, a leading figure in the Janjaweed bandits who are accused of carrying out widespread killings in Darfur as a proxy force

for the Khartoum government. Both men face 51 counts of serious crimes, including murder, rape, forcing people from their homes, and persecution.

Human rights activists are outraged that not only has the government of Sudan ignored orders to hand over the men, it has effectively promoted Haroun by giving him a greater say in the handling of the Darfur crisis. In September 2007, he was given responsibility for hearing complaints from those affected by the violence in Darfur; he has also been tasked with liaising with the United Nations and the African Union on issues relating to the province's security.

Kosheib was in custody at the time the arrest warrant was issued. But in October 2007, Khartoum announced that he had been released, claiming that there was not sufficient evidence against him.

In May this year, the European Parliament called on EU governments to impose what it described as "targeted and punitive measures" on those Sudanese officials who are believed to be directly responsible for not complying with the ICC. These would include freezing any assets that they hold, denying them access to European banks, and forbidding them from doing business with European firms.

Salih Mahmoud Osman, a Sudanese lawyer who has been campaigning for the perpetrators of crimes in Darfur to be brought to justice, said that the EU has a "special responsibility" to take robust action against Khartoum because the Union has been a supporter of the International Criminal Court.

According to UN estimates, some 300,000 people have been killed since fighting erupted in Darfur five years ago. Up to three million people are living in refugee camps after being uprooted by the violence, with most of these unable to return home as the security situation remains dire.

"More than a year after the arrest warrants were issued, girls as young as eight continue to be raped," said Osman. "Diplomats have too often allowed the need for justice to be set aside for other priorities. Now is the time for the international community to act."

Osman rejected suggestions that arresting war criminals might impede efforts to broker a peace agreement between the various armed groups in Sudan. "On the contrary, justice helps support the process of peace," he argued. "The priority today should be justice and accountability."

The EU foreign ministers who meet next week in Luxembourg are to hear an update on the Darfur dossier from Luis Moreno Ocampo, the ICC's prosecutor. While diplomats say that the ministers will issue a statement deploring the lack of cooperation with the ICC, it is not yet clear if they will impose sanctions.

Hans-Gert Pöttering, the European Parliament's president, said that the EU "has not only a moral but also a legal obligation to do everything in its power to help ensure these criminals are prosecuted and punished."

Lotte Leicht, director of the Brussels office of Human Rights Watch, recalled that EU governments indicated earlier this year that they would adopt punitive measures against a group of Sudanese officials unless they meet the ICC's demands. "It would be profoundly useful if the EU not just supports the ICC in theory but when push comes to shove," she said.

Activists believe that Sudan is legally required under the UN's Charter to satisfy the demands of the ICC.

Osman has also asked the EU to formally reprimand China over its close political and economic links with Sudan.

"China has been a real problem in the (UN) Security Council because whenever there is a draft resolution to be adopted related to the situation in Darfur, it is always China that is blocking the resolution," he told IPS. "The Sudanese government is depending immensely on China because it is providing helicopter gunships and aircraft that are used in aerial bombardment and destroying villages and communities.

"The international community should send a message to China that it is not acceptable to support a government that is committing genocide against its own people."

In a letter sent to Dimitrij Rupel, the Swedish foreign minister who will chair next week's discussion with his EU counterparts, several campaign groups have insisted that the Union needs to demonstrate that Sudan's rejection of ICC demands "will come at a price."

The Cairo Institute signed the letter for Human Rights Studies in Egypt, Collectif Urgence Darfour in France, the Lebanese Centre for Human Rights, and the International Federation for Human Rights.

Eliasson: situation in Darfur is worsening

(Miraya FM) The UN and the African Union mediators in the Darfur peace talks, Jan Eliasson and Salim Salim, called on the Security Council to take stiff steps for the implementation of its previous resolutions on Darfur.

Addressing the African Union Peace and Security Council, Eliasson and Salim, said that the situation in Darfur is worst than it was last year. Mr. Eliasson described the situation in Darfur as fragile and urged the international community to intervene before it reaches a catastrophic stage.

The Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM-Minnawi faction) meanwhile denied that it has differences with the National Congress Party.

Speaking to Miraya FM, a leading member in the Movement, Atteyb Khamis, said that the visit of the Senior Assistant to the President Minni Arko Minawi to Northern Darfur State is to see into the situation of the movement's troops in the area.

Mr. Khamis said that the visit is not based on any differences between the SLM-Minnawi Faction and the National Congress Party.

Sudan reportedly rejects two candidates for Darfur mediator post

(ST) June 12, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – The Sudanese government expressed reservations on two potential candidates to fill the position of the UN-African Union (AU) mediator for Darfur, a newspaper reported today.

The daily Al-Ahdath quoting unidentified Sudanese official said that the UN and AU submitted the names of two candidates, a Lebanese and a Senegalese but Khartoum rejected them.

Chad says rebels flee to Sudanese border

(ST) June 14, 2008 (N'DJAMENA) — Chadian government said a rebel force attacked the town of Goz Beida near the Sudanese border and fled to the east after capturing vehicles of a German organisation working the refugee camps.

Goz Beida is a strategic town in the hilly south east. Nearly 80,000 displaced Chadians and some 36,000 refugees from neighbouring Sudan's war-battered Darfur region live nearby in camps.

The Spokesperson of the Chadian government, Mahamat Hissein, announced today that a "column of mercenaries" attacked Goz-Beida in mid-day and fled from the town after killing a woman and stealing three vehicles of the German cooperation agency (GTZ).

The government rejects the rebel announcements of a new major offensive and describes it as "rebel propaganda".

But arebel spokesperson Abderaman Koulamallah said that their troops left the town to rejoin another rebel forces in the area. He further added that the biggest clashes will probably begin on Sunday.

Koulamallah said the rebel force had some 500 to 600 vehicles and 7,000 to 8,000 men at their disposal, nearly double the number of a similar offensive in February.

"The rebels were only passing through Goz Beida and were not staying," another local source told the AFP.

The Government Spokesperson said that Eufor The Chadian army and began to secure Goz-Beida. "Eufor secure the humanitarian part and refugees and the Chadian army secure the rest of the city."

Around 500 Irish and 70 Dutch troops make up the EUFOR contingent in the region, whose mission is to protect civilians and refugees fleeing Darfur.

European Union peacekeepers returned fire after coming under attack in eastern Chad Saturday. The firefight, in which no EUFOR troops were injured, took place shortly after noon about four kilometres north of Goz Beida, where troops were protecting the refugee camp.

Another rebel spokesman, Abdelwawid Abud Makaye, president of the Union of Democratic Forces for Fundamental Development (UFDD-F), said their forces "controlled the whole sector".

"We are now discussing strategy," he added. "When we took Goz Beida, we captured 20 army vehicles. We didn't take any injuries. However the army suffered several deaths," he said.

"We have 500 pick-up trucks with well-armed men. Our aim is to take Ndjamenia by the weekend which we will, God willing," Aboud Makaye added.

The rebel said a convoy of vehicles was heading towards the town of Mangalme, some 75 kilometres west of Goz Beida and 500 kilometres east of Chad's capital.

The Chadian rebel offensive against Deby had been widely expected since Sudanese Darfuri insurgents attacked the Sudanese capital Khartoum in May. Both countries accuse each other of supporting rebel groups hostile to each others' governments.

Chadian rebels attack refugee town near Sudanese border

(News Now) Nairobi/N'Djamena - Rebels attempting to overthrow Chadian President Idriss Derby have attacked a town near the border with Sudan, opening fire on European Union peacekeeping troops in the process.

Fighting broke out on Saturday in the town of Goz Beida, where the United Nations is housing over ten thousand refugees who have fled fighting in Sudan's restive Darfur province, the BBC reported.

The battle was believed to have been heavy, although it was not clear how many casualties there were.

A spokesperson for the Irish Army confirmed that Irish members of the EU protection force (EUFOR) came under fire but said the none of his men were injured.

'It is not clear who fired upon our troops,' Commandant Gavin Young said in a statement. 'Irish troops briefly returned warning fire from their armoured vehicles.'

The situation was now 'calm but tense,' Young said.

Prior to the battle, the United Nation's humanitarian news service IRIN said aid workers in the area had seen two columns of rebels moving east and that the local authorities had fled.

Hundreds of thousands of Darfur refugees live in eastern Chad.

The clash came after rebels on Thursday claimed to have shot down a government helicopter and damaged another as they launched an offensive from the east of the country.

Chadian rebels have been fighting for two years to overthrow Derby, who they say is corrupt, and are now believed to be launching a push they hope will take them right into the capital of N'Djamena.

The fighting is unlikely to ease tensions between Sudan and Chad, which the UN has said are fighting a proxy war by supporting rebel groups on each other's soil.

Chad's Communication Minister Mahamat Hissene said that Sudan was supporting the rebels because it wanted to overthrow the Chadian government in order to 'make sure that the Sudanese government can implement its policy in Darfur without any other country seeing what is going on.'

Hundreds of thousands are believed to have died in the long conflict between rebels and government forces in Sudan's western Darfur province.

Sudan recently accused Chad of supporting Darfur rebels in an attack on the Sudanese capital Khartoum and severed economic ties. Chad responded by closing its border with Sudan.

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