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UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

UN mission mourns passing of presidential advisor

(*UN News Center*) The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) today mourned the death of Presidential Advisor Majzoub Al Khalifa, paying tribute to his dedication.

“Majzoub Al Khalifa was one of the key interlocutors of UNMIS since the inception of the Mission,” spokesperson Radhia Achouri told the press in Khartoum.

“He will be remembered as a tenacious negotiator and a high caliber statesman, and for his contribution to the peaceful resolution of the Darfur conflict through the Abuja peace process and subsequent negotiations in the context of the Addis Ababa conclusions of November last year,” she said.

Just last weekend, the Senior Adviser to the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Darfur, Pekka Haavisto, met with Presidential Adviser Al Khalifa, she noted. [*Read the full text of the Press Release on www.unmis.org*].

Security Council diplomats welcome acceptance of hybrid force for Darfur

(*Sudan.Net*) With the Government of the Sudan having agreed unconditionally to support the deployment of a hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force in the conflict-ridden Darfur region, it was necessary to keep up the pressure on Khartoum, the co-leaders of a recent Security Council mission to Africa said today as they briefed the wider Council membership on the week-long trip.

“So far so good,” Emyr Jones Parry (United Kingdom) said of Khartoum's decision to allow the deployment after months of on-again-off-again negotiations and mounting international pressure. While the improved tone of the recent talks was a good sign, “we got where we are today by sustained pressure for what we need to do in Darfur”, the western region of the Sudan where the efforts of some 7,000 African Union peacekeepers had been hampered by a lack of equipment and funding.

Even while maintaining the same level of pressure to pave the way for the proposed 20,000-strong hybrid force, Member States and the Council must work constructively with Khartoum to ensure the deployment, he stressed, noting at the same time that the Sudanese Government had rightly chastised the international community for not exerting enough pressure on the rebels, who bore an equally large burden for implementation of the plan.

Ban: China's role in Darfur constructive

(*China Daily*) The Chinese government has played a "constructive role" in the Darfur issue, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Monday, stressing that "slow but credible and considerable progress" has been made in recent times.

Addressing a press conference after a meeting on Darfur in Paris, Ban said he was "satisfied" with China's contribution to the diplomatic process.

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said the delegations of 18 countries and international organizations reiterated their support for the joint efforts of the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN) - sending a composite peacekeeping force and striking a wider political deal between Khartoum and the rebel factions in western Sudan.

Deputy Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui, who attended the meeting, backed the "road map" for the political process in Darfur, which was presented recently by the UN secretary-general's special representative Jan Eliasson and the AU special coordinator for Darfur Salim Ahmed Salim.

Zhang appealed to all sides to urge the Darfur rebels into rejoining the peace process as soon as possible.

Zhang said the agreement reached among the AU, UN and Sudan is an "important sign of progress" toward restoring peace in the Darfur regions. It demonstrates the efficiency of the coordination mechanism between the three parties.

But Zhang regretted that the political process on Darfur is behind schedule compared to the peacekeeping operations.

China has donated more than \$10 million in humanitarian aid for Darfur. Also, it will send a team of engineers to the regions.

"This is not the time to talk about further sanctions," said Liu Guijin, China's recently appointed special envoy for Darfur.

He decried the attempts to link the Darfur issue with the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, saying they were "really unfounded (because) the basic character of the Olympics is non-political".

IOM opens River Nile journeys for return of South Sudan IDPs

(*SudanTribune.com*) An IOM operation to provide return assistance along the River Nile to an initial group of 2,400 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from camps in Khartoum started on Wednesday June 20 when a group of 451 IDPs boarded an IOM-chartered barge in Kosti for a two-week journey to their homes in South Sudan's Lakes and Jonglei States.

"With the onset of the rainy season, travel by river remains one of the only options for those wish to return home to South Sudan," says Mario Tavolaj, IOM's Chief of Mission in Khartoum.

“Over the next seven weeks, IOM intends to complete six barge rotations between Kosti and key towns along the River Nile in South Sudan.”

Air operations from Khartoum to the South to transport another 1,500 vulnerable IDPs are scheduled to start on July 10th 2007.

This operation, undertaken jointly with the Government of National Unity, the Government of Southern Sudan, and UN partners is the first barge operation ever organized to return IDPs from North to Southern Sudan. The barge departure was witnessed by Brunson McKinley, IOM Director General Brunson and by senior Government and UN officials.

The barge is scheduled to make a first stop in Shambe, in Lakes State to disembark 255 IDPs persons before sailing further south towards Bor, in Jonglei State.

Prior to their departure, IOM transported the returnees by road from Khartoum to a way station in Kosti, which is jointly run by IOM, the Fellowship for African Relief (FAR) and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). The group was medically screened and vaccinated at the way station.

Upon arrival in the ports of Shambe and Bor, the IDPs will be taken by truck to selected drop off points where they will be welcomed by community members and representatives of local authorities.

Upon arrival, each family will receive a 3-month food ration from WFP, in addition to the Non Food Items (NFIs) such as plastic sheets, sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets, jerricans and soaps donated by UNICEF/UNJLC prior to their departure.

Repair infrastructure so that the displaced can return home – IOM

(IRIN via Gurtong.com) South Sudan should hasten the provision of basic services and infrastructure to encourage most of the two million displaced southerners around Khartoum to return home, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said.

"People have to be able to support themselves and their families; if they know that there is very little awaiting them on the other end, that has to be a disincentive," Brunson McKinley, IOM director-general, said.

McKinley, who ended a six-day mission to Sudan on Saturday, also visited the war-ravaged western region of Darfur and Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

"When you look at Juba and I guess the country beyond Juba which is even poorer, you see a lot of work needs to be done," he added.

"When you play that back into the experience of the displaced persons or the refugees, you have to say that it is really the ones who are the most courageous who are going back now," McKinley said. "And you can understand why others are waiting until things get a little bit better."

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESA)

Sudan's presidential adviser dies in car crash

(Reuters) Sudan's powerful presidential adviser Majzoub al-Khalifa, who was key to signing last year's Darfur peace accord, died in a car accident in northern Sudan on Wednesday.

"He died in a car accident on his way to Shendi. He and his brother were killed and other members of his family were injured," a presidential source said.

No other vehicle was involved in the accident, which appeared to be the result of a blown tyre, the source added.

The state news agency (SUNA) said Mr. Khalifa, born in 1952, and his brother would be buried in his home town of Taybat al-Khawad later on Wednesday.

Mr. Khalifa was one of the main interlocutors in the Darfur peace process and head of the government negotiating team in talks which led to the signing of a 2006 peace deal for Sudan's Darfur region between the government and one rebel faction.

The accident happened at about 4:30 a.m. (0130 GMT) on Wednesday.

President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and ministers flew to the area for the funeral. Other government employees embarked on the long drive to his village.

A visit by Chadian President Idriss Deby to Khartoum on Wednesday was postponed, SUNA said.

Mr. Khalifa graduated from Khartoum university's faculty of medicine in 1976. He had previously held the positions of governor of Khartoum and agriculture minister.

Known for his gruff manner, he was energetic, large of stature and said to be one of Mr. Bashir's close inner circle.

Sometimes called a "thug" by his critics, he was blunt and to the point in his diplomatic dealings.

President Bashir says hybrid forces will be extra labour

(AlRai AlAam) Addressing yesterday the parliamentary blocs of parties participating in the GoNU, President Bashir said that the next three months would lead Darfur to peace. He pointed out that the situation in Darfur is greatly improved especially after the formation of the TDRA, relations with Chad are going back to normal, and it is only the non-signatory factions that are causing delays in the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

The President called on the MPs to play a bigger role in consolidating the peace.

He further said that the hybrid forces, once they come early next year, will only be extra, unnecessary labour because would have been realised by then.

The President also called for an end to tribal conflicts and for the preservation of the social fabric.

The President noted that the IDP camps are an embodiment of the crisis in Darfur and vowed to encourage voluntary returns and plan residential areas for those IDPs willing to live around the towns.

Government reserved over French offer of troops

(AlSahafa) The Sudan government has expressed reserve over a French offer of a large number of troops for the hybrid operation in Darfur.

The government pointed out that the agreement in Addis Ababa was that the hybrid force be made up of troops from African states.

Stress on Foreign Relations during Five-year Plan, Taha

(Sudan Vision) The Vice President of the Republic, Ali Osman Mohammed Taha, has submitted to the National Assembly the national five-year plan for the period 2007-2011 to be discussed at the next session of the Assembly after recess.

In his presentation, he stressed that the coming five years would be dedicated to the establishment of balanced foreign relations despite the numerous attempts at blocking Sudan's efforts in that direction.

He revealed that the five-year plan centers on the pivots of comprehensive security, plurality, peaceful circulation of power, equitable distribution of wealth, social harmony, comprehensive peace and the sovereignty of law. After underlining the efforts made for rounding off peace in Darfur and the organization of highly competent security and defense forces, he stated that the plan had fairly analyzed the current situation in Sudan as well as pinpointed the threats and challenges for mobilizing national will to realize objectives.

He acknowledged that the five-year period is not sufficient for overall development though it can allow for laying the foundation for it. Taha explained that the plan gave priority to agriculture, building of institutions, capacity building, eligibility, transparency and time management

Sudanese-Chadian talks open

(Sudan Vision) Sudanese-Chadian talks at the ministerial level started yesterday at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum with Sudan's defence minister leading the Sudanese side and Chad's minister of state for infrastructure at the head of the Chadian delegation.

Sudan's defence minister said that the Riyadh and Tripoli agreements have put relations between the two countries back on the right track and pointed out that President Debi's visit here comes within the context of marked improvements in relations.

The Chadian side said President Debi's visit avails an opportunity for deliberating on various political and security issues and confirmed that the two sides are committed to the implementation of the Tripoli agreement.

Sudanese activists discuss rights abuses during north-south civil war

(*SudanTribune.com*) The chairperson of Human Rights and Humanitarians Affairs Committee in the Interim Legislative Assembly of southern Sudan, MP Margaret Peter Abudi advised Sudanese human rights activist to be careful when approaching issue of human rights abuses that has been committed by both Sudan government and SPLM/A during the last 21 years of war.

Margaret said many lives were lost in southern Sudan at the time when southerners were struggling for justice and freedom that resulted to disappearance of many southern men especially in 1992 and that the hardest hit and tortured were women and children.

She gave a moving testimony on how Sudanese soldiers in Terekeka raped women including under age girls of eleven, adding that perpetrators of such criminal acts including killing are still rooming free to the present because democracy is still not rooted among Sudanese.

MP Daniel Jok said Khartoum government has brought a big shame to all peace loving northern Sudanese by not keeping a single prisoner of war capture from SPLM/A during 21 years of national struggle for justice and freedom of southern Sudanese and the marginalized areas.

Journalist Mrs. Appolonia Mathia said the widows of southern Sudanese are appealing to human rights activists and member of forth estate to assist them in locating whereabouts of their husbands and sons picked from their respective working places-offices in 1992 by military intelligent who could not disclosed what h has happened to their loved one.

Meanwhile Sudanese Human rights activists pledged their full support to disseminating the CPA documents signed between the Sudan ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) because the accord has more rooms for promoting and protecting human rights in the whole Sudan, observed activists.

They further appealed to government of southern Sudan not to follow or emulate what the previous government of national salvation was doing in the Sudan.

This is the first of its kind join national meeting involving Human Rights and Environmental Development group from northern Sudan with Southern Sudan Civil Society, Law makers and Journalists to marking International Day of Support to Victims of Torture.

Chair of the Joint Defence Board handed over to the SAF

(AlSudani) The Spokesperson for the Joint Defence Board said that a meeting of the Board held yesterday at the Officers' Club of the Peoples' Armed Forces saw the chair of the Joint Defence Board handed over to Gen. Haj Ahmed Geili of the SAF. The SAF army general will chair the JDB for the next three months and takes over from Mjr. Gen. Wayai Deng of the SPLA.

Mjr. Gen. Thomas Cirillo of the SPLA also takes over the office of the Chief of Staff of the JIUs from Mjr. Gen. Yusuf Osman of the SAF, adds JDB Spokesperson Bior Ajang who himself takes over the position from Mjr. Gen. Majzoub Rahama of the SAF.

He also pointed out that the SAF also announce at the meeting that it no longer has militias aligned to it in southern Sudan as of yesterday. The Spokesperson further pointed out that any force in southern Sudan other than the SPLA and the JIU will be considered an outlaw group.

The meeting also saw the formation of a committee to look into and draft a statute, by-laws, and procedures for a military tribunal. The committee shall be based in Juba. The spokesperson further revealed that the meeting also underlined the need to complete the provision of urgent requirements for the JIUs that include buildings, etc. He said that the heads of the JDB will soon embark on a tour of JIU positions.

The Spokesperson for the JDB said that the next meeting of the Board will take place before the 9th of July when the redeployment of the SAF north of the 1.1.'56 line is expected to complete.

Khartoum Monitor reports meanwhile that Defence Minister AbdelRaheem Mohammed officiated yesterday at a celebration to mark the complete dissolution of the SSDF and its reintegration into the SAF.

The minister said civil war was no longer an option following the signing of the CPA and that government felt bound by duty to honour the armed groups which fought for the realisation of peace. He announced that the President of the Republic has awarded key leaders of the SSDF first class medals of honour.

Speaking on behalf of the demobilised SSDF, el-Toum el-Nour Daldoum and Mohammed Choul el-Ahmer expressed keenness to realise peace and commitment to the implementation of the CPA. They said that they will cooperate with the GoSS to realise peace and security.

Daldoum said that those armed groups still active in southern Sudan, especially in Eastern Equatoria State are aligned to the SPLA and not the SAF. He said that their numbers are not known.

SLA-MM in Muhajiriya walks out on the Darfur Peace Agreement

(Rai AlShaab) The Spokesperson of the SLA-MM military command has rebuffed recent reports that the General Command of the Minnawi faction of the SLA and the Muhajiriya Zone Command in South Darfur have walked out on the Darfur Peace Agreement and are calling on all members in the towns to "return to the liberated areas to continue the struggle" to realise the aspirations of the people.

Spokesperson Mohamed Hamid Darbeen says the SLA central or any of the field commands have not issued such a statement and pointed out that the statement is an attempt to sow sedition within the movement.

An earlier statement signed by SLA commander Juma Mohamed Haggar had declared the walkout and cited disappointment over the non-implementation of any article of the Darfur Peace Agreement as reason for the decision. The statement said that the only thing the Darfur Peace Agreement did was to bring Mini Minnawi to a legislative position named “Senior Aide”. Haggar said in the statement that he had circulated to the press six months ago a memorandum calling on the government to expedite implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement, especially its protocol on security arrangements, and to address the issue of IDPs and refugees but to no avail. Instead, the statement noted, the situation had worsened.

SPLM admits some of its activists are being detained over the Kajbar incident

(Alwan) The SPLM has admitted that most of those detained in connection with the Kajbar Dam incidents are its supporters.

The SPLM pointed out that the detention of those people is a violation of the CPA and the Interim National Constitution and pointed out that security officials transcended their powers.

The SPLM denounced the arrests and has demanded that authorities desist from pursuing its members.

Implementation of eastern peace deal kicks off

(Khartoum Monitor) The leader of the Eastern Front says that the implementation of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement has been flagged off by the Presidential Decree appointing member of the Front to the National Assembly.

Musa Mohamed Ahmed said that the aspirations of the people of eastern Sudan can be realised through the peace deal.

Mines control society urges for de-mining in eastern Sudan

(Khartoum Monitor) The Sudanese Society for Mine Control has said that much work lies ahead in eastern Sudan following the arrival of the Eastern Front fighters. The society cites building of villages, settlements and health centres as some of the issues to do.

The 4th Session of the Sudanese Society for Mine Control explained the difficulties the society is facing in the Blue Nile [*as a result of the rainy season*] and Nuba Mountains [*budgetary constraints*].

GoSS

South Sudan envoy to Egypt says I'm not here to weaken the embassy

(SudanTribune.com) The newly appointed head of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) Liaison Office in Cairo has said that his role in Egypt comes to complement and not to challenge the Sudanese embassy. He further affirmed that attracting investors and the follow-up of GoSS accords constitute the core of his mission.

The Head of GoSS Liaison Office to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Middle East, Gulf States and League of Arab Nations, Parmena Makueta Mangar, told the Sudan Tribune "I am here to support the Sudanese Embassy and not to weaken the Embassy. I am not consulate but Liaison Office for regional cooperation, investment, development and to strengthen bilateral relationship with Egypt and Arab states".

Since his arrival to Cairo on May 19, Parmena conducted various meetings with the Egyptian authorities, security organs, Sudanese Ambassador, NCP and SPLM office in Cairo to explain the purpose of his mission.

He reiterated that, there is no contradiction between his office and the Sudan embassy. My role is to sequel the reconstruction agreements which do not fall under the Sudanese embassy in Cairo. For instance, when the Egyptian Minister of Electricity visited Juba, Rumbek and Wau, was invited by Dr. Riek Machar, Vice President of GoSS and Minister of Housing, Land and Public Utilities and the agreement was signed in Juba, not Khartoum and this can not be followed by the embassy but via my office.

“We have agreements with the Egyptian government to train south Sudanese cadres in various fields such as irrigation, banking and police which Sudanese embassy doesn’t possess its dossiers. Thus, there is no antagonism between GoSS Liaison Office and the Sudan embassy in Egypt.”

Parmena described his meetings with the Sudanese Ambassador Abdelmonem Maburuk and Consul Emad as the meeting between brothers, and said that according to Sudanese tradition the meeting was conducted under the prevalence of affection and admiration. He further said that he told Ambassador that your elder son is doing a superb job and has got a home, but his bond with the big home will always remain forever.

South Sudanese suffer as Ugandan rebels gather

(Reuters via SudanTribune.com) In tiny clay huts, south Sudanese villagers sleep uneasily in fear of being attacked by Ugandan Lord’s Resistance Army rebels.

Under terms of a ceasefire between the Ugandan government and the rebels, fighters who have terrorized northern Uganda are supposed to gather near Ri-Kwangba in southern Sudan.

But residents near the site complain the truce that has brought peace to their neighbor has brought conflict to their doorstep and threatens development in the impoverished region which is emerging from 20 years of civil war.

More than 70 houses were ruined in an attack on one village near the main town Yambio, a few miles from Ri-Kwangba in the months following the LRA's move westwards. Four people were taken away to carry stolen food and valuables for the rebels.

Their bodies were later found in the nearby forest.

Seven others have gone missing while looking for honey in the thick jungle surrounding the area, but the villagers are too afraid to search for them, said Zachariah Nzari, a local tribal chief, his angry eyes clouding over as he remembered.

The LRA denies responsibility for any attacks. And with myriad armed militias and many civilians carrying weapons, it is not always easy to apportion blame in south Sudan.

Clergy urges southern Sudanese unity to win independence

(SRS via SudanTribune.com) The Acting Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, Nathaniel Garang, has called on southern Sudanese to unite in order to - in his words - "win" the 2011 referendum.

Archbishop Garang told a church congregation in Nairobi, Kenya on Sunday 24 June that southern Sudanese should all vote for independence in the referendum, reported the Sudan Radio Service (SRS).

The Acting Archbishop also urged people in the region to be patient with the Government of Southern Sudan as it struggles to provide services. Garang said that the Episcopal Church of Sudan will work with the government to realize "peace through development" in the region.

He advised the youth to refrain from drugs, alcohol and what he called "bad politics" because the future of southern Sudan depends on them.

Darfur

Humanitarian:

Discovery of Darfur underground lake spurs "1000 wells"

(afrol.com) The recent discovery of a mega-lake under northern Darfur has prompted an initiative to fund well-drilling in the region. The President of Sudan, Omar al-Bashir, has agreed to the initiative, which is to tackle the problem of water shortage in north-western Sudan and may contribute to a peace solution.

The "1,000 Wells For Darfur" initiative was agreed on during a meeting in Khartoum last week between President al-Bashir and the Egyptian scientist Farouk El-Baz, director of the Centre for Remote Sensing at the US-based Boston University, who had proposed the initiative. The initiative is based on the discovery, by the Boston University team, of an ancient underground mega lake in northern Darfur. A paper detailing the discovery is due to be

published in an upcoming issue of the 'International Journal of Remote Sensing', a geographic science journal.

Mr El-Baz told the science media 'SciDev.Net' that the presumption that vast amounts of water can be utilised from the lake is based on the fact that 500 wells, drilled into an identical basin (East Uweinat) in southwest Egypt, have irrigated up to 150,000 acres for at least 100 years. The 1,000 Wells initiative is to be presented to the Sudanese government Council of Ministers in its upcoming meeting to work out the details. The UN Mission in Sudan is also planning to drill a few wells to improve the water supply.

[Editorial: Hope for Darfur](#) (*ArabNews*)

Political:

Workshop in South Darfur calls for demobilization of the Border Intelligence Unit and the Popular Defence Forces, among other things

(*AlAyaam*) Participants at a workshop in Nyala have called for the disarmament and demobilisation of the Janjaweed, the Border Guards, the Popular Police and Defence Forces and the Tora-Bora militias and that Darfur be granted regional status according to the 1956 boundaries and with a representation at the Presidency of the Republic. The workshop also called for the national population census to be deferred in all parts of the country until after solutions are found to the Darfur crisis.

The workshop that was organised by the Darfur Peoples' Forum in collaboration with the African Justice Organisation and with the participation of over 100 representatives from South Darfur also called for a trial for perpetrators of crimes in Darfur and for the construction of the road network.