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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies

UNMIS Acting SRSG expresses concern over lack of trust between CPA parties

(*AlAyaam*) The Acting SRSG has expressed concern over the lack of the spirit of the CPA despite the continued progress in implementation of the agreement.

In his address intended for the Donors' meeting today, ASRSG Taye-Brook Zerihoun says that there still is much concern over the absence of the spirit of the Naivasha deal in spite of the continued progress in implementation.

He pointed out that the clear lack of trust between the parties is evidence of lack of commitment to a true partnership and the values of the CPA.

UNDP organises discussion on the Human Development Report 2006

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The UNDP is organising on Thursday a panel discussion on the Human Development report 2006.

UNDP Communications manager Aicha el-Basri said the discussion marks "World Water Day" and explained that on this occasion the UNDP will present the Global human Development Report 2006 on water scarcity, poverty, power and the global water crisis.

Sudan government rejects a UN request to grant Sudanese nationality to Eritrean refugees

(*AlSahafa*) The UN has rejected a UNHCR proposal that Eritrean refugees living in eastern Sudan be granted Sudanese citizenship.

This, it has been learnt, follows refusal by these refugees to be repatriated to their countries.

High rank government officials point out that this clearly illustrates the UNHCR's failure to meet its obligations towards these refugees.

❖ *Please find attached Media Advisory on the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator's mission to Africa*

The Transition Debate

UN Secretary-General sends Eliasson and Salim to discuss with Khartoum

The Secretary-General of the UN told London-based *AlHayat* yesterday that he has seized all positive initiatives to bring some progress on Darfur and has the issue at the top of his priorities but regrets that the Sudanese President had expressed some reservations over a joint UN-AU proposal, *AlAyaam* reports

He said he has asked envoys Eliasson and Salim to visit Sudan again. The UN Secretary-General also said he held talks over the phone with some African leaders to try to convince President Bashir and has got assurances from Nigeria's Obasanjo that he will personally travel to Sudan to talk to President Bashir on the issue.

Meanwhile Jean-Marie Guehenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, told a Security Council meeting that the latest written response from Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's letter detailing the planned force indicated there may be "fundamental strategic differences" over Darfur.

"We still have, unfortunately, a long way to go because there may be some fundamental misunderstandings on what are the expectations of the Government of Sudan and what is on offer," he told journalists following the closed-door meeting.

Guehenno said the international community has already "waited much too long," given the level of suffering across Darfur and believes it is important to have a strong peacekeeping presence there [*click on the link for the full text of the story from the SudanTribune.com* [UN says Sudan still far from accepting Darfur force](#)].

CPA

Peace mobilization campaign to be launched in Jonglei

(The Citizen) A prominent member of the Southern Sudan Peace Commission and a member of the Jonglei State Legislative Assembly representing Pibor constituency met yesterday with the SPLM State Secretary yesterday [*in Jonglei State*].

The three discussed the problems of insecurity in the state and resolved to launch a peace mobilization campaign in Jonglei with the hope of planting seeds of peaceful coexistence.

The campaign is expected to kick off as soon as the GoSS makes available the necessary funds.

Child abduction and cattle raids have greatly increased in Jonglei State following a disarmament exercise that, although successful, left the disarmed communities victims to the marauding Murle tribesmen who are yet to be disarmed.

The country commissioners are threatening to re-arm their men if this practice does not come to an end soon.

GoNU

Sudan urges donors to resolve its debts crisis

(*SudanTribune.com*) Sudanese Minister of Finance and National Economy al-Zubair Ahmed Hassan Monday called on international donors to resolve what he called "the crisis of external debts" which his government is facing.

The Sudanese minister made the call when addressing the inaugural session of the second Sudan Consortium meeting opening in Khartoum in the day.

"The crisis of external debts is threatening the economic transformation in Sudan and blocking its development," he said, adding that "this crisis must be resolved."

Riek Mashar, the vice president of the government of southern Sudan, accused the international donors of delaying or even being unwilling to honor their commitments made during the conference they held in Oslo of Norway after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January, 2006, to end the 21-year civil war in Sudan.

The donor countries have only paid 14 percent of the assistance being promised to help heal the wounds left by the war between the northern and southern parts of Sudan, Mashar said.

The second Sudan Consortium meeting, which is held under the chairmanship of the Sudanese government and the government of southern Sudan, brings together the UN, World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and international donors.

The participants of the meeting will examine the achievements to date, and challenges facing implementation of economic reforms, policy commitments, aid effectiveness and resource needs to support the recovery and development of Sudan.

After two days of discussions in Khartoum, the participants will move to Juba, the capital of southern Sudan on Wednesday to continue their meeting.

Demonstrations in Babanousa and Muglad, memos requesting release of detainees

(*AlAyaam*) Hundreds of people in Babanousa and Muglad organized public demonstrations and besieged the security of offices in protest against the arrest of two (Misseriya People's Free Forum) youth leaders in the area.

They asked the security authorities to release Ahmed Dhahia and Mohamed Abdallah al Hadi who they believe have been kidnapped and arrested by the security. They gave the security authorities an ultimatum of 24 hours to release the detainees.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS/SPLM

GoSS to establish commercial databank

(The citizen) Speaking over Radio Juba yesterday, the GoSS Minister of Commerce and Cooperatives gave highlights of his ministry's 200-Day Plan that focuses on developing the foreign trade policies and simplifying procedures for investment in the south.

He said that his ministry intends to establish a commercial data bank and internet unit dedicated to foreign trade and has received \$14 million from both the WTO and the GoSS in support for his ministry's programs.

He further revealed that his ministry has a standards and metrology unit that must approve that all foodstuff entering southern Sudan is compliant to the standards despite the absence of modern tools and instruments.

SPLA holds 2nd Command and Staff Meeting

(The Citizen) The SPLA held its Second Command and Staff Meeting at its headquarters in Juba on 14 – 17 March.

A statement issued by SPLA Spokesman Mjr. Gen. Kuol Deim listed the objectives of the meeting as: to review and consult on progress of the SPLA in general and on implementation of the Security Arrangements Protocol of the CPA; to share experiences and lessons learnt from the year 2006 and to come up with strategic plans in order to move forward with the process of the re-organisation and transformation of the SPLA for a guerrilla army into a conventional, professional and modern army.

The meeting was chaired by SPLA C-in-C, Gen Salva Kiir.

SPLA to have own bank

(The Citizen) SPLA's Director of Political and Moral Orientation says the SPLA intends to establish a bank.

Mjr. Gen. Deim Kuol who is also the SPLA Spokesman said that this is in line with the Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan and has to be implemented in order to transform the SPLA into a professional and productive army.

He said that to do so also require that the SPLA has its own sources of income-generation instead of depending on the government.

On the number of the people who ran away from Ramkei recently, the spokesman said that the 150 people were mostly from western Upper Nile and former members of the SSDF who were not pleased with the military ranks they were given after integration of their forces into the SPLA.

Episcopal Church accuses SPLM of detaining and torturing priests in the Nuba Mountains area

(*Alwan et al*) In a memorandum presented to the Office of VP Salva Kiir, cc the UN Sector Commander, Nuba Mountains, the Episcopal Church of Sudan has accused the SPLM of detaining and torturing its priests in the Nuba Mountains area.

The Church says the priests were arrested and are in detention under bad conditions in Korji and have been subjected to continuous torture. They called on the SPLM to stop such random arrests.

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Sudanese president denies govt participation in Darfur crimes

(*SudanTribune.com*) The Sudanese president reacted forcefully Monday, denying his government is complicit in ethnic cleansing and accusing the United States of having ulterior motives against Sudan.

In an interview with the US TV network, NBC, Omar al-Bashir, has described the report by the UN Human Rights Council on the situation in Darfur as biased, saying it relied on misguided facts and information.

Al-Bashir said members of the council obtained their information regarding the situation in Darfur from hostile quarters.

He refuted the claims and allegations of ethnic cleansing and genocide in Darfur. Bashir said any talk of imposing sanctions on Sudan would obstruct the peace process in the country.

On Monday, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir gave NBC's Ann Curry an unprecedented two-hour, no-holds-barred interview — his first television interview to a Western journalist in three years.

Part I of excerpts from the interview is attached separately. Part II will hopefully follow in coming MMR.

Sudanese FVP discusses Darfur crisis with Chadian president

(*SudanTribune.com*) A meeting took place in the Chadian capital, Ndjamena, between the Chadian president, Idris Deby and the first vice-president Salva Kiir Mayardit. The meeting affirmed that the Darfur problem could not be resolved by arms, but by peaceful dialogue and talks.

The meeting was attended by Bakri Hassan Saleh, the minister of the affairs of the Presidency, and a number of Chadian officials.

The first vice-president also referred to the important role, which Chad, Libya and Eritrea were playing to give impetus to the efforts to resolve the Darfur problem.

Salva Kiir is expected to hold a meeting on Monday night with Darfur rebel leaders opposed to the Darfur Peace Agreement in a bid to encourage the non-signatories of the deal to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the crisis.

Kiir and Deby have invited DPA signatory and non-signatory factions to a meeting in Juba, reports *AlRai AlAam*.

Senior Presidential Aide calls on federal finance ministry to expedite approval of Darfur budget

(*Rai AlShaab*) Senior Presidential Aide Mini Minnawi has called on the Federal Ministry of Finance to expedite approval of the budget of the Darfur Interim Authority.

Minnawi was speaking at a meeting yesterday with the minister of finance when he also called for an emergency funding for the reconstruction of school and health facilities destroyed by the war in N. Darfur.

SPLM expresses concern over CPA from continued conflict in Darfur

(*Rai AlShaab*) Expressing fears that a protracted conflict in Darfur could revive the war in southern Sudan, Joseph Ogado, a prominent member of the SPLM in Bahr-el-Ghazal, said that the “genocide” in Darfur should not be left to pass unnoticed.

He called on the government to expedite solutions to the crisis in Darfur and wondered what government it is that allows its people to remain homeless.

He also backed the ICC action on Darfur crime perpetrators and said it is up to the suspects named to prove their innocence.

Aid workers access to people in Darfur diminishing

(*SudanTribune.com*) Humanitarian access is shrinking rapidly in Darfur where relief workers are attacked and intimidated, a U.N. humanitarian official said shortly before making his first trip to the region on Tuesday.

Briton John Holmes, the humanitarian and emergency relief coordinator who took up his post this month, plans to go to Khartoum, Juba in the south and Darfur in the west. His 10-day tour takes him to Chad and the Central African Republic, which have borne spillovers from the conflict in Darfur.

Holmes said in an interview with two reporters that aid workers were barred from many areas "more or less all the time" sometimes because of government operations, other times by rebel fighters [[Click on the link for the full story Aid workers access to people in Darfur diminishing](#)]

Darfur camps reaching capacity

(*SudanTribune.com*) Camps for internally displaced persons in the western Sudanese region of Darfur are almost at full capacity due to a continuing influx of people fleeing violence, an assessment report compiled by the United Nations and other aid agencies said.

In North Darfur, As Salaam camp cannot take any more displaced people due to water shortages, while Abu Shouk has been closed to newcomers and Zam Zam is very close to maximum capacity, said the Sudan Humanitarian Overview for February. The report is prepared by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), other UN agencies and non-governmental partners [*click on the link for the full text [Darfur camps reaching capacity](#)*].

Reactions to the ICC Summons

Legal experts travel to Geneva in bid to block ICC action

(*Allintibaha*) The Ministry of Justice has dispatched a delegation headed by the Undersecretary to Geneva in a bid to block the ICC action on alleged Darfur crimes.

The delegation includes human rights activists and representatives of civil society organisations and travels to Geneva next Friday.