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By Public Information Office

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Highlights

Main News

Census chief: Census exercise ends today, no extension, partial census in Southern Kordofan

(Al-Khartoum/Khartoum Monitor) Chairperson of the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee of the 5th Population Census Dr. Abdulbagi Algailani has ruled out any intention to extend duration of the census, scheduled to end tomorrow.

He said all obstacles facing census teams have been removed in all States, downplaying the effects of the areas uncovered by the census in some parts of Darfur states.

He added that, while the percentage of census count reached 100% in Northern Kordofan, Red Sea Kassala, Gedarif and Northern States, it reached 85% in West Darfur and 80- 85% in South Darfur.

He indicated the low coverage of the census in Southern Kordofan, which he said amounted to 26% at various localities of the State, attributing the reason to the lack of response of citizens to the census from the beginning.

Meanwhile, SPLM in Southern Kordofan State was still boycotting the census, despite the fact that it was crucial to the human development.

Deputy Governor of Southern Kordofan Daniel Kodi said that the administration, law, police and civil service need to be consolidated; a matter which, he added, makes some areas inaccessible to the census teams.

He noted that the SPLM met last week in Kadogli with the Head of the Census Technical Committee, Yousif Abdelatif and conveyed to him SPLM position boycotting the census.

Kodi emphasized that the SPLM would be firm on its position of boycotting the census and would not change its stand unless reasons for the boycott were eliminated.

But, according to the paper the Secretary-General of State government Abdullah Altoum said that the census was carried out in some parts of the State.

On the other hand, SMC reported that Northern Darfur State Governor Osman Mohammed Yosif Kibir has affirmed that his State witnessed unprecedented response for census.

The governor said citizens have responded to the process because they understood that the aim of the operation was to provide basic services and map out development projects.

Sudan: Census workers arrested

(Ottawa Citizen News Services) Darfur rebels have arrested about 13 government census staff and will try them as "enemies."

The census is a key to a 2005 north-south peace deal to determine wealth and power sharing before the first democratic elections in 23 years, in 2009. Many reject the census because they don't trust the government to implement it accurately.

UN/Agencies

UNSG condolences conveyed to GoS and GoSS over plane crash

(Al-Sahafa) Deputy Secretary General A. Rose rang up Sudan Mission in NY conveying SG condolences to GoS, GoSS and the Sudanese people on plane crash in Rumbek.

Sahnoon apologizes to lead JMST

(Al-Sahafa) the newspaper has learnt from sources that SG Advisor Mohamed Sahnoon has apologized to lead Darfur mediation efforts. Sources said UN was considering other names.

According to the sources, Sahnoon apologized on medical grounds and the SG accepted it.

On the other hand, sources said SG would brief SC during this month on hybrid deployment in Darfur.

GoNU

Vice President Taha leaves for Oslo heading Sudan's delegation to donors' conference

Khartoum, May 4 (SUNA) - Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha Sunday left for Oslo, Norway, heading Sudan's delegation to the 2nd Donors Conference, to begin Monday with the participation of UN and the World Bank.

The Minister of Finance and National Economy, Dr. Awad Ahmed Al-Jazz, Minister of International Cooperation Dr. Al-Tigani Salih Fedail and Minister of Presidential Affairs of the Government of Southern Sudan, Dr. Luka Biong, will accompany the Vice President.

In this connection, Minister of International Cooperation, Dr. Al-Tigani Salih Fedail, said in a statement to SUNA the conference was preceded by a briefing to the participants on the government implementation of the millennium goals with regard to its various aspects including the good governance, involvement of private sector and de-mining. Dr. Fedail pointed out that the conferees would hold a sitting on the current situation in Darfur.

Sudan's delegation will also present a paper on the progress of implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) as well as another paper on the priorities of the 5-year plan (2008 -2011) on the joint infrastructure projects linking the North and South Sudan before declaring the commitments of the donors with regard to the implementation of these projects.

Sudan to ask donors for \$6 bln at Oslo meeting

KHARTOUM, May 5 (Reuters) - Sudan will ask donor nations meeting in Norway this week for \$6 billion over the next three years to help rebuild Africa's largest nation after decades of civil wars, a government report said.

The Sudan consortium has met yearly since a 2005 north-south peace deal ended Africa's longest civil war. It is the stage for richer nations to show their support for maintaining peace in Sudan by pledging development funds.

But south Sudan's semi-autonomous government says it has received far less than donors pledged in the past, while funds earmarked for development have been diverted to aid for Darfur, where civil war erupted five years ago.

The report to the consortium, put together by the Khartoum government in conjunction with south Sudan's administration, said Sudan needed \$6.1 billion for development over the next three years -- not including \$2 billion in humanitarian aid.

The meeting is taking place from Monday to Wednesday in Oslo.

In the report, south Sudan's government said it had received only \$550 million of the \$4.1 billion pledged by donors following the peace accord in 2005.

South Sudan, one of the poorest areas on earth after being embroiled in civil wars on and off since 1955, has the world's highest maternal mortality rate and lowest rate of primary school enrolment, according to U.N. figures.

South Sudan said the delay in getting donor funds had set back the building of roads

and other infrastructure and its ability to meet healthcare needs.

It blamed the World Bank-led mechanism on spending the money, known as the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF).

"The Multi Donor Trust Fund for southern Sudan took quite some time to become fully operational and by the end of 2007 had only spent 25 percent of the \$350 million it had received from donors," it said.

The rest of the donor funds came in bilateral projects, many of which south Sudan's government was not aware of and had not approved, it added.

Much of the donor cash was diverted to the western Darfur region, where a conflict not covered by the 2005 peace deal has raged for five years between the Khartoum government and Darfuris who complain of discrimination and marginalisation.

The world's largest humanitarian operation in Darfur costs almost \$1 billion a year not including the world's largest U.N.-funded peacekeeping operation which will consist of 26,000 police and troops once fully deployed.

With such an international focus on Darfur, a conflict Washington has labelled genocide, some campaigners worry the south Sudan peace deal is being neglected and implementation has fallen far behind schedule.

"Lack of attention to the implementation of the north-south peace agreement in Sudan is short-sighted and counter-productive," advocacy group Refugees International said in a statement on Monday.

"If the north-south peace agreement does not hold, there will be little prospect of achieving peace in Darfur."

Donors' conference on Sudan to be held in Oslo

STOCKHOLM, May 5 (Xinhua) -- An international donors' conference on Sudan which opens in the Norwegian capital of Oslo on Monday is expected to review and strengthen the international commitment to the country.

The three-day Sudan Donor Nations Conference will review progress on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), a 2005 peace deal that ended more than two decades of civil war in Sudan, the Norwegian public broadcaster NRK reported.

The meeting is also expected to generate new pledges of aid and donations to support reconstruction and further development in Sudan.

In April 2005, Norway hosted the first Sudan Donor Nations Conference after the signing of the CPA between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in January 2005.

"We are very pleased to again be able to host an international donor conference to support peace and development in Sudan," Erik Solheim, Norway's minister of the Environment and International Development, was quoted as saying.

"This is an important opportunity for the Sudan Government of National Unity (GONU), the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) and the international community to reconfirm their commitment to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement," the minister added.

High-level political participation is expected at the conference from Sudan and from international donors.

Last week, the UN Security Council voted unanimously to extend the UN peacekeeping mission in southern Sudan.

Former US Envoy urges roadmap should South Sudan secedes

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) Former US Envoy Andrew Natis has urged US Administration to cooperate with GoS to normalize relations and charting a roadmap should Southern Sudan secede.

He advised Bush Administration to pursue a cooperation policy with Sudan rather than threat and sanctions pointing out that Sudan managed to tap oil under foreign pressure.

CEAWC reunites 300 abductees with their families

(Al-Sahafa) The Committee on Elimination of Abduction of Women and Children (CEAWC) reunited more than 300 abductees with their relatives in South Darfur through its centers located in Bahr el Ghazal and in a number of cities and villages of southern Sudan.

CEAWC chairman Dr. Ahmed Al-Mufti said the reunification was carried out under the supervision of CEAWC federal cadres, UNICEF and relevant UN Agencies and it was also carried out in accordance with internationally-accepted standards.

Sudan train tragedy: a dozen dead

May 4, 2008 (Kordofan NSV) - A Sudan Railway Corporation cargo train got in a deadly accident on Saturday evening at Beja Station in Kordofan.

Report emerging from the area indicates bodies of 12 passengers were collected from the scene on Sunday morning. The dead include students from southern Sudan who were going to Khartoum for holidays after completing exams from Western Kordofan University in Babanusa where the train took off from.

Unclaimed bodies are still in Fulla mortuary while six seriously injured passengers are in Fulla Hospital.

The director of the railway corporation in Babanusa has confirmed the death of 12 passengers.

A rescue effort is underway to bring crane to lift more than 20 derailed carriages. It is also believed that there are more dead bodies under heavy steel carriages. Rescue team is yet to reach the scene of the accident from El-Obeid which is more than 300km away.

The worse train accident along western corridor was in 1997 when a passenger train was derailed in Debibat killing hundreds of passengers who were heading for Darfur.

Sudan cautiously optimistic on UK new Darfur initiative

(ST) The Sudanese government described talks held with UK officials last week as “frank, transparent and constructive”.

The Sudanese presidential adviser Mustafa Ismail told Sudan official news agency (SUNA) that discussions in London were “positive” and that it tackled bilateral relations, implementation of Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and Darfur crisis.

However, Ismail cautioned that “it is too early to jump to conclusions since we are in the beginning of the road”.

The UK Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, and the Secretary of State for International Development, Douglas Alexander, met last week with the Sudanese Foreign Minister, Deng Alor, as part of a delegation that included Ismail.

Ismail said that the talks with the British government would continue in Khartoum at an unspecified date.

During the meeting the Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for International Development, pressed Deng Alor on the UK’s key concerns on Darfur: the security situation and humanitarian access; the urgent need for a cessation of hostilities; more active cooperation from the Government of Sudan on the UNAMID deployment.

The British officials further discussed how a cessation of hostilities could help improve prospects for progress in the political process, and how the UK could help.

However, the Foreign Office didn’t elaborate on the initiative of the British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, to host Darfur peace talks. It was expected that they would deliver further details on the issue.

The Sudanese presidential adviser said that it is “premature to say whether we have accepted or rejected the British proposal since we are still in the process of inquiring and evaluating the situation”.

He stressed that his government was committed to the Libyan efforts as well as those of the UN and AU mediators Jan Eliasson and Salem Ahmed Salem.

“We asked about the guarantees they [UK] received of a change in position by the rebel groups regarding the boycott of the peace talks”.

Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) urged the British government to discuss with the Sudanese delegation the halt of violence as priority before peace talks.

Al-Nur had requested Britain to respect the resolution of the Five Permanent members of the UN Security Council to stop violence before talks.

The British ministers also urged the Sudanese government to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court (ICC), which has issued warrants for two Sudanese citizens, accused of war crimes in Darfur in 2003 and 2004.

However, Ismail speaking to Al-Jazeera news channel from London over the weekend reiterated his government's refusal to cooperate with the ICC saying it does not have jurisdiction over Sudanese nationals.

14 killed in Darfur following Sudanese army aerial attacks - rebels

(ST) May 4, 2008 (LONDON) — Sudanese army yesterday killed 14 civilians during a bombardment of two areas in North Darfur, Justice and Equality Movement said today.

Ahmed Hussein Adam, JEM spokesperson told Sudan Tribune that an Antonov of the Sudanese army killed 11 civilians in Shugag Karo area in North Darfur State and wounded 4 children and 2 women. He further said this aerial attack occurred on the market day of the area.

According to the rebel official, the military plane also bombed al-Ain area, east of Jebel Midoub, in al-Malha district, North Darfur. Three sons of the local traditional leader, Adam Bakr were killed and one injured.

Ahmed condemned "the systematic bombing of the civilians in Darfur." He added that Khartoum "continues to committing genocide and inflicting collective punishment on Darfur people."

He added that Sudanese army commits these violations of the international humanitarian law and UN Security Council resolutions and the UN-African Union peacekeeping force stand spectator without fulfilling its mandate of protection of civilians.

JEM spokesperson further underlined that there was no any rebel group in the area to speak about rebel provocation to justify these attacks.

Sudan recruits former Iraqi army pilots - rebels

(ST) May 4, 2008 (LONDON) — Darfur rebel group claimed today that Sudanese army had recruited former Iraqi army pilots to fly bombers in the war-torn region of Darfur.

The Sudanese army has contracted "250 Iraqi pilots for its aerial bombardment in Darfur. Some of these pilots are now accommodated in the official guest house in Alfashir city." The Justice and Equality Movement said on Sunday.

JEM military spokesperson Ali Wafi said that Sudanese government was forced to recruit the Iraqi pilots because the Sudanese aviators became "reluctant to undertake bombing missions while some had openly voiced their objection to bombing of innocent civilians."

The Sudanese army has intensified the aerial attacks against the rebel positions in Darfur, they bomb the rebel areas before ground attacks.

Wafi said his group had shot down planes flown by Iraqi pilots. However, this allegation was not confirmed by independent sources.

The rebel group also claimed that Sudan was assembling in Nyala, South Darfur, unmanned planes it had bought recently.

[GoSS](#)

South Sudan Unity State Governor lost SPLM elections

(ST) May 4, 2008 (BENTIU) – Governor of Unity State, Taban Deng Gai has lost the SPLM State election for chairperson to his rival Dr. Joseph Minyitil Wiejang who overwhelmingly won the votes as the results were officially announced yesterday.

Dr. Wiejang is currently the Minister of Health in the Government of Southern Sudan.

Mr. Samuel Lony Geng won the position for deputy-chairperson while the position for Secretary is yet to be announced later today.

The elections were conducted under direct supervision of Dr. Theophillus Ochang Lotti, an Advisor to the President of the Government of Southern Sudan.

Present during the state congress formation were GOSS and SPLA senior officials and officers that hail from Unity state. These included Dr. Riek Machar Teny, Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Madam Angelina Teny, State Minister of Energy and Mining in the Government of National Unity, Lt. General Paulino Matip Nhial, SPLA Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Major General Peter Gatdet Yaka and a number of Parliamentarians.

In another news development, Lt. Gen. Paulino Matip Nhial urged the Government of Southern Sudan leadership to remain calm and courageous following the tragic plane crash on Friday near Rumbek town that claimed the lives of Dr. Justin Yaac Arop, Presidential Advisor on Decentralization and Lt. Gen. Dominic Dim Deng, Minister for SPLA Affairs and 19 others.

Gen. Matip said the incident is a great loss and sadly reminds the people of Southern Sudan about the tragic plane crash that claimed the life of our late leader, Dr. John Garang de Mabior.

The SPLA Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Oyai Deng Ajak, explained to the press that contacts between the plane pilot and the aviation tower in Rumbek before the plane crashed indicate that the incident was caused by failure of the plane engines and that there were no human hands being it.

Gen. Oyai who was in Rumbek at the time of the plane crash and was waiting for the same plane to pick him to Juba, said the pilot had contacted the Rumbek tower saying one of the plane engines had stopped and requested for “emergency” landing at the Rumbek Airport. “After few minutes the pilot contacted the tower again saying the other engine had also stopped operating,” Oyai explained further, adding that the pilot then lost contact shortly after the second call.

He however added that a thorough investigation will be carried out into the company of the plane, the plane itself and the pilot or his experience.

SPLA Chief of Staff rules out foul play in plane crash

(Alwan) Bodies of senior SPLM officials killed in the plane crash arrived in Juba yesterday, received by hundreds including the FVP Salva Kiir.

SPLA Chief of Staff First Lt. Gen. Deng has described the crash as tragic and ruled out foul play in the incident. The bodies of those killed will be buried today in Juba.

Darfur

SLA (Abdul Wahid) refuses to meet Darfur Movements’ delegation

(Al-Sahafa) SLM (Unity) leader Sulaiman Jamooz said SLM (mainstream) leader Abdul Wahid refused to meet with a delegation representing Darfur Movement currently in Paris.

The delegation wanted to brief Abdul Wahid on the outcomes of a conference convened by Darfur movements in the Netherlands recently.

The delegation comprised Armed Movement leaders such as Abdullah Yahia, Sherif Harir, Osman Bushra and others.

DPA signatories suspend participation in GoNU for one day

(Al-Sahafa) DPA signatories will suspend their participation in the GoNU for one day to protest slow implementation.

Representatives of DPA signatories will deliver a memo to the partners, facilitators, UNAMID and GoNU explaining progress of implementation after two years of signature.

Meanwhile the Senior Presidential Assistant and Chairman of Darfur Transitional Authority Minni Minawi will hold a press conference today in Khartoum on progress of DPA implementation with regard to four major components: power, wealth, security arrangements and DDDC

SLA (Unity) hijacked trucks loaded with arms and supplies for Chinese contingent in North Darfur State

(Al-Rai Al Aam) Informed Sources told SMC that an armed group led by Abdul Rahman Isac of SLA (Unity faction) intercepted Sunday UNAMID truck loaded with two containers at Amri area, North Darfur State.

The armed men seized two containers one carrying 12 guns and a quantity of other arms and ammunition and the second container packed with food supplies for the Chinese troops.

UNAMID reveal no information but sources told the paper efforts were underway to recover the hijacked truck.