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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Foreign Ministry holds UN responsible for delay of hybrid operation

(*Alwan*)The Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked the US Administration to control statements by its officials at the UN so as to avoid messages threatening the GoS in regard to the hybrid operation agreed by the UN and AU in Addis Ababa. Ambassador Suraj Aldin Hamid, the Head of the MoFA Peace Department, held the UN responsible for delays in the hybrid operation. He said the UN has not completed the agreed three support packages and has not approved the budget of the hybrid operation. Ambassador Suraj urged the UN to complete measures required for the hybrid operation as this will encourage the African states to participate effectively.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

NCP submits proposals to overcome crisis with SPLM

(AlIntibaha) The NCP members in the NCP-SPLM joint political committee for the implementation of the CPA renewed their commitment to implement the agreement and to the mechanisms established for dealing with problems. The meeting of the NCP team of the committee, which was chaired by Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, discussed developments in the relationship with SPLM. The meeting recommended that the Presidency meetings continue to solve the crisis. The meeting agreed to submit its recommendations to the NCP leadership office.

Sudan president says will export ethics and morals to Western countries

(Sudan Tribune.com – 28 Oct. KHARTOUM) The Sudanese president Omar Al-Bashir lashed out at Western countries and accused them of "lacking ethics and morals". "Western nations have no ethics or morals and we will export it to them. These countries have

the political, military and economic strength. We are strong with our values and we are waiting on Allah's promise to obliterate them" Al-Bashir said while addressing crowds at the White Nile state capital. The Sudanese president accused western countries of wanting to control the oil reserves in Darfur "just like they did in Iraq". "We are not afraid of sanctions and war if they are forced on us" he said. Al-Bashir sent a message to the rebel groups saying "they [Western countries] don't like you and they will be of no good to you. They want us to fight each other and it is better that we come together".

Sudanese president, his first deputy show keenness to end crisis

(Sudan Tribune.com – 28 Oct. KHARTOUM) Sudanese President and his first deputy have reaffirmed their keenness to end the political crisis in the Government of National Unity following the withdrawal of the SPLM from the cabinet earlier this month. President Omer al-Bashir, and First Vice - President, Salva Kiir, have affirmed their keenness to enhance the relation between the two partners through constructive dialogue toward consolidating the partnership between the National Congress Party (NCP) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) for implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The two Sudanese leaders met on Sunday noon at the premises of the Council of Ministers.

GoSS President: SPLA did not complete redeployment

(AlRai AlAam) The FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir admitted that SPLA has not completed redeployment from some areas as stated in the CPA. Kiir justified this by saying that the SPLM does not have helicopters required for the process and the GoNU has not assisted on this matter.

Meeting between al Bashir and Kiir

(AlRai AlAam) President al Bashir and FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir affirmed their keenness to address the issue of the NCP-SPLM relationship through dialogue so as to implement the CPA. In their meeting at the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers yesterday al Bashir and Kiir discussed the President's visit to Libya and the peace talks between the Government and Darfur rebels in Sirte.

IGAD SECRETARY-GENERAL criticizes CPA implementation monitoring mechanism

(Sudan Tribune) The Secretary General of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development, Ambassador Atala Hassan described the process of monitoring the implementation of the CPA as weak and vague in the articles of agreement. Speaking at a round table discussion of the IGAD Early Warning System held yesterday at Al Sharga Hall, he asserted that the agreement did not state the mechanisms of intervention to tackle disputes between the two parties. He indicated that the two partners look at the Agreement implementation mechanism as having no authorities to resolve the crisis, pointing out that the IGAD partners have a hand in the peace process and that they have mechanisms to evaluate the progress of the implementation of the deal.

GoSS

Jonglei clashes put census in jeopardy, says MP

(*The Citizen*) A lawmaker has said tribal clashes in Jonglei could jeopardize the census set due next year. Gatkuoth Doup Kuich (Waat) said the crisis may also hamper the returning program of 75,000 Internally Displaced Persons from the neighboring states. The clashes have largely blamed on marauding Murle raiders." The community should be peacefully disarmed now because they would disappear during the dry season", said the MP.

SPLM criticizes al Bashir's speech at the Parliament

(AlSudani) Informed sources within the SPLM told AlSudani that SPLM MPs will table today a request for summoning the Minister of Interior al Zubeir Bashir Taha to explain reasons behind the inspection of SPLM offices in Khartoum by the police authorities during last month. In a meeting at which they discussed the President speech to the National Assembly, the SPLM agreed to criticize the speech on the ground that it has not touched on the fundamental issues which to a crisis between the CPA partners. The speech, the SPLM sources said, has not refereed to solving the issue of Darfur and implementation of the ESPA and Cairo Agreement with NDA.

Return to be counted, Machar asks Refugees

(*The Citizen*) The Government of Southern Sudan vice president Dr. Riek Machar, Saturday, called on the Southern Sudanese refugees in the neighboring countries to return for historical population census due in three-month time. Speaking to hundreds of Juba residents who returned out to witness the launching of the fifth population census in the Sudan, Machar said the count would only involve the Sudanese inside the Sudan. "Those outside Sudan will not be counted" said the vice president. He said the refugees, who will not come back home for the census before February next year would not be counted as the counting will only be done in the territories of the Sudan.

Southern Sudan women parliamentarians prepare for forthcoming national elections

(BBC Monitoring) -- Radio Miraya FM South Sudan Women parliamentarians have began preparation for the forth coming national elections in a workshop aimed to influence decision making and producing good leaders. Addressing an estimated 60 participants, the acting chairperson of the South Sudan Legislative Women Forum, Bogout Amum Okiech, said the workshop would also empower women to advocate for their rights. The two day workshop is being organized by the South Sudan Legislative Women Forum in partnership with the American International Republican Institute.

Sudanese official, UN envoy discuss troubled peace accord

(BBC Monitoring) – Sudanese Radio The minister of state for foreign affairs, Ali Karti, today met the head of the UN Mission to Sudan, Ashraf [Jahangir] Qazi, who stressed the mission would cooperate with the Government of National Unity in order to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement [CPA], besides working to maintain Sudan's territorial integrity. Mr. Qazi said the UN would work to resolve the problems the country faced.

Darfur

Darfur movements demand postponement of talks

(AlAyam, AlRai AlAam) -- Darfur movements taking part in Sirte talks have demanded postponement of the talks prior to the participation of the boycotting movements and completion of the current effort for the unification of the movement's negotiating position. But, while the mediators dismissed the suspension of the talks, the government on its part requested the mediators to grant the movements ample time and deadline to decide on the issue.

In a memo handed by the movements to the mediators, they called for postponing the talks saying that they would not like to isolate any faction. The memo stressed the vital need of the movements to hold workshops of capacity-building to be held simultaneously with the talks.

UN Special Envoy to Darfur Eliasson rejected the postponement of the talks expressing his understanding to the postponement request presented by the factions present in Sirte. He confirmed that efforts were under way in collaboration with Egypt, Libya Eritrea and Chad to work out road map for the negotiations, saying that such work might need some time

The government negotiator warned earlier Sunday that Khartoum would have no patience for absent rebels. Nafie Ali Nafie said negotiations could be adjourned only to allow "those who came here" to have more time to reach a common ground. "To adjourn negotiations for those who didn't come is a wrong signal," Nafie told reporters. "It's unacceptable." The Mediation Team Spokesperson Ahmed Fawzi told AlRai AlAam that a high level team will leave Sirte for Juba in few days to make consultations with the other rebel groups and convince them to join Sirte talks.

Darfur armed groups say government attacks IDP camps despite ceasefire

(AlSudani) The SLM Field Commander and member of the five-man committee for unifying the rebel movements, Jar Alnabi Abdelkarim Yunis who currently in Juba, accused the government of not being serious in achieving peace in Sudan in general and Darfur in particular. He ceasefire announced by the government is no more than a delaying tactic as the government is still committing violations in the IDP camps in Nyala.

Government agrees to give representatives of rebel movements meeting in Juba time to join Sirte

(AlSahafa) The government has accepted a proposal from the mediation team to give the representatives of the rebel groups who are meeting in Juba some time in order to unify their movement and join the Sirte talks.

Seven died, wounded in South Darfur in intertribal Zaghawa clashes

(Rai AlShaab) Clashes between the Zaghawa tribesmen in Marla area in South Darfur resulted in the killing of three people and causing injuries to four others. Sources suggest that looting of cattle was the main reason behind these clashes.

Khartoum and Paris investigate issue of Darfur abducted children, France condemns attempt

(*Alwan*) the French Ambassador to Khartoum, who was summoned yesterday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, condemned the attempt of abducting the Darfur children. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has set up a committee to investigate on the issue of the 103 children. UNICEF said most of the children are from Chad and that there is no evidence proving that the children are orphans.

Close-door meeting for GoS and Darfur rebels

(Alwan) Mediators in Sirte peace talks on Darfur said that the representatives of the government and the rebel movements have agreed yesterday to hold a close-door meeting today in an effort to agree on agenda.

Sirte talks continue with consensus on necessity to reach political solution, American envoy welcomes GoS' ceasefire announcement

(Sudan Vision) Sirte talks yesterday witnessed more speeches by participants who all underlined the need to benefit from the opportunity of the talks and the favorable international environment to actualize peace. The talks were addressed by members of Sudan's delegation and the international community and Darfur civil society. A statement issued by the factions present in Sirte, in an indirect reference to postponing the talks, demanded additional time to avoid precluding any of the major factions from the talks.

On the other hand, the statement made by Taj Addin Bashir Nyam on behalf of the movements failed to make an express announcement on cessation of hostilities, indicating that the factions present in Sirte needed to conduct consultations with the absent factions. Syed Al-Khatib, member of Sudan's delegation in turn stressed the need for continuation of the talks, underscoring that peace requires a strong political will. American envoy to Darfur, Andrew Natsios, welcomed the government's ceasefire announcement. He describing the decision as operative on the ground, noting that it will reflect favorably on Darfur issue.

Dr. Salim believes boycotting rebels will join talks

(Khartoum Monitor) The AU special envoy to Darfur, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim said during the opening of the talks between Sudanese Government and the Darfur rebels in Serti town of Libya on 27 October 2007 that he believes the rebels who are boycotting the talks will join their brothers in Libya. A reliable source from African Mission in Sudan told Khartoum Monitor that Dr. Salim said the door is still open for the rebel movements to join the peace negotiations. The source said he is very hopeful that the standout rebels will join the negotiations in Serti to end the Darfur crisis. He revealed that Presidential Advisor Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail said the talks will continue despite the absence of other factions. It is very important to mention that the Sudanese head of delegation to Serti talks, Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie stated on the opening talks that the Government of Sudan is proclaiming as of now a unilateral ceasefire in Darfur.

Protests breakout in Darfur camps, as in Libya, talks stumble

(*The Citizen*) the Darfur talks in Libya were yesterday hit by another storm as the Internally Displaced Persons took to demonstrations, according to a displaced person's official. The demonstration started on October 26 and end on October 30. The demonstrators handed memos to the African Union and the United Nations, that any out come of the talks held in Serti, Libya, would be of no concern to the IDPs, refugees or any person from Darfur displaced by this war, said the spokesperson of the IDPs Darfur Hussein Shartai. The IDPs formally rejected the talks early this month. Shartai said the position remains the same and those attending the talks"are not representing us but representing themselves"

SPLM pledges to play positive role in Darfur peace

(Sudan Tribune.com – 28 Oct. Juba) The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) pledged to contribute to reach a fair and effective solution of the four year crisis in Western Sudan region of Darfur. In a meeting with a Justice and Equality Movement delegation held in the capital of southern Sudan last Wednesday, SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum said the SPLM, which is not part in the ongoing conflict, would play the role of facilitator to reach a durable and just peace in Darfur.

Amum said the crisis of Darfur is the result of marginalization and a strong expression of the need for equitable sharing of power and wealth. He also said Darfur people should rule their region by themselves. SPLM Secretary General pledged to act through their position in the government of national unity to realize a comprehensive solution in Darfur. He further said that the solution must treat the root causes of the problem, Ahmed Hussein Adam, JEM spokesperson told Sudan Tribune.

Sudan will not accept any European troops for hybrid force: Official

(Sudan Tribune.com – 28 Oct. KHARTOUM) The Sudanese government will not accept any European personnel as part of the hybrid force to be deployed in Darfur, a Sudanese official told reporters in Khartoum. "Any technical teams within the agreement supposed to have been come from China and Pakistan" Foreign affairs spokesman Ali Al-Sadig said. Diplomats said Sudan has not yet approved units from Thailand, Nepal and Norway even though 90 percent of the ground troops and 75 percent of the entire

proposed force are from Africa. Al-Sadig said that some countries in the UN want to admit other countries as part of the force particularly from Europe. This is the first formal reaction from a Sudanese official on the list of troop donating countries submitted by the UN & AU to Khartoum for approval. Sudan's position may suggest that there may be further delays in the deployment of the hybrid force.

Aspirations of Darfur civilians far from mediators' agenda

(Sudan Tribune.com – 28 Oct. EL-FASHER) Sitting around a dusty courtyard trying to shade from the punishing sun, survivors of Darfur's 4-1/2-year-old conflict discuss lofty political ambitions and dreams for their uncertain future. The more than 2 million Darfuris who sought refuge in makeshift camps — one third of the region's population — reject the peace talks in Sirte, Libya, which opened on Saturday despite a boycott by the key rebel factions. The boycott leaves little hope negotiators will achieve anything of substance.

But even if those rebels who are supported by the population went to the talks, the goals demanded by their increasingly politicized people would be a far cry from the agenda prepared by African Union and United Nations mediators.

Separating religion from state in Sudan, which operates under Islamic Sharia law, having democratic elections to change the government, and a referendum on possible Darfur secession are the issues these victims want addressed. "We want another government," said Ibrahim Musa Abakr, 37, who fled the war to the Abu Shouk camp near Darfur's main town el-Fasher. "Any deal this government has signed is just on paper. They are not serious," he added. Abakr said the government had exploited Islam for it own ends — to remain in power — and he wanted a secular state.

British lawmakers urge Chinese help to end Darfur crisis

(Sudan Tribune.com – 28 Oct. LONDON) More than 100 British legislators have written a letter to China's government urging it to take greater responsibility for ending the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region, a human rights group said Monday. The letter, addressed to Chinese President Hu Jintao, calls on China to review its policy of providing arms to the Sudanese government, international rights organization Crisis Action said. The letter, which said China's help is needed before the Beijing Olympics in 2008, will be delivered to the Chinese Embassy in London on Monday by a delegation of legislators that planned to discuss it with senior embassy officials, Crisis Action said.

UK Brown warns of sanctions if Darfur talks fail

(Sudan Tribune.com – 28 Oct. LONDON) Prime Minister Gordon Brown on Sunday warned of more sanctions if progress was not made at talks in Libya to end four years of violence in the western Sudanese region. Speaking at his Downing Street office, Brown urged all parties to take part in the discussions, after key rebel groups boycotted the talks in the Mediterranean city of Sirte sponsored by the African Union and United Nations. "We want to be there to help with economic reconstruction," Brown said. "We promise to put money in but, of course, if people don't come to the ceasefire and if the talks fail we will consider further sanctions."

Chad children say were offered sweets to leave home

(Sudan Tribune.com – 28 Oct. ABECHE) Europeans offered sweets and biscuits to encourage poor African children to leave their homes, children said on Sunday, as Chad probed an operation to ship out young children to live with families in Europe. Aid workers caring for the children in Chad's eastern city of Abeche, where authorities detained nine French nationals on Thursday as they prepared to fly 103 children to France, said the children's accounts had not yet been verified.

French charity "Zoe's Ark" promoted the scheme as offering a better life to orphans from Sudan's war-torn Darfur region, many of whose people have fled over the border to camps in Chad. But some children said their parents are still alive, and they were taken from their villages on the Chad-Sudan border. France has condemned the operation and the Paris prosecutor's office opened an investigation last week into "illegal exercise of intermediary activities with the aim of adoption," but diplomats said they would face Chadian justice.

Read more: Chad children say were offered sweets to leave home

Darfur talks postponed to allow further rebel preparation

(Sudan Tribune.com – 28 Oct. SIRTE, Libya) Crippled by the absence of key rebel leaders, a highly anticipated Darfur peace conference was effectively postponed Sunday to give rebel delegates time to prepare before direct negotiations with the Sudanese government. The U.N. and African Union peace mediators described a multiphase process of talks involving an initial "consultation" period ahead of "substantial negotiations" set to open in a few weeks. "The process leading to negotiations has begun," said Salim Ahmed Salim, the AU envoy. The mediators stated the consultation phase would start Monday, and Salim said "the actual date when the negotiations will begin" would be determined later.

Read more: Darfur talks postponed to allow further rebel preparation

Rwandan troops die in Darfur three days after arrival

(Sudan Tribune.com – 28 Oct. KHARTOUM) Two Rwandan peacekeepers have died in a car crash barely three days after deploying in Sudan's war-torn Darfur province, the African Union mission in Sudan said during a remembrance ceremony Sunday. The two men died "in a traffic accident whilst performing their very first set of duties," on Saturday, AU Deputy Head of Mission Hassan Gibril told the ceremony in Darfur's main city of Al-Fasher. An AU statement paid homage to the men, named as Nyirimigabo Ildephonse and Ndayishimiye Jean-Claude, who arrived in Darfur ahead of a bolstered hybrid AU-United Nations force of 26,000 due to be deployed later this year.

China supports balanced political solution in Darfur - envoy

(Sudan Tribune.com – 27 Oct. SIRTE, Libya) China supports a balanced development of the peacekeeping mission and the political process in Darfur, western Sudan, a Chinese special envoy said here Saturday. Liu Guijin, China's special envoy on Darfur issue,

made the remarks at the inaugural session of the peace negotiations between the Sudanese government and anti-government movements in the Libyan coastal city of Sirte. With initial results achieved in Darfur's peacekeeping mission, it is important to facilitate the political process in the region, Liu said. He urged the concerned parties in the negotiations to reach a comprehensive peace accord to end a four-year-old conflict in Darfur, which will ensure the peacekeeping mission, reconstruction and economic development in the region.

President Addresses Arab Donors Meeting on Darfur

(SMC) President of the republic field marshal Omar Hassan Al-Bashir will address Tuesday the opening session of Arab donors meeting held in Khartoum for handling humanitarian situation in Darfur. The meeting will also be addressed by the secretary general of the Arab League Amru Musa, and senior assistant to president, chairman of Transitional Darfur Regional Authority (TDRA) Minni Arkou Minawi, it was noted that all Arab countries announced participation in the meeting.

Sudan: Paramilitaries oppose inclusion of Scandinavian elements in hybrid force

(BBC Monitoring)— Al-Watan The sector of Al-Dabbabin [pro-government paramilitary] congratulates the blessed efforts the government is making in order for peace endeavors to be a success and to stop the bloodshed and loss of life of Muslims in all parts of our beloved Darfur. The sector congratulates the government and international community for reaching an acceptable formula for the hybrid operation project to boost peace in Darfur while not undermining national sovereignty.

Despite this wide support for the peace efforts by all of Al-Dabbabin's sectors, we reaffirm that we are aware of the despicable conspiracies being drawn up by the hostile forces of evil by putting forward Norwegian and Danish troops to participate as part of the hybrid operation. We emphasize that the Muslim people in the land of Sudan will not forget the continuing insult by these two countries to our Prophet peace be upon him.

The sector hereby declares is categorical rejection of Norwegian or Danish troops defiling the lands of Darfur or participating as part of the hybrid operation agreed between the government and the international and regional community. This would be a blatant provocation of the feelings of Muslims in general, in Sudan and the pure land of Darfur, the land of Quranic khalawi [schools]. Al-Dabbabin's contingents will deal with them in accordance with the duties of jihad and religion.

Darfur refugees 'forcibly moved'

(BBC news) Hundreds of refugees in Darfur are being forcibly evicted from a camp by Sudanese soldiers and police, a UN official has told the BBC. Men and women were loaded at gunpoint onto trucks at a camp in Nyala, the capital of south Darfur, said the official, who asked not to be named. The UN tried to intervene in the operation, which it described as illegal, but were prevented. Sudanese officials said the refugees were being taken to a safer camp.

The refugees were guarded by troops, police and Sudanese national security personnel, the UN official said. Armed with machine guns, sticks and rubber hoses, they packed around 50 refugees and their belongings onto each truck, as evening fell. The Sudanese officials told the UN the camp at which they had been living was dangerous, following tribal clashes. While the UN official said there was some truth to this, the forced relocation was illegal and dangerous to carry out at night.