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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Ki Moon: I discussed with Bashir handing over of Haroun and Kosheib

(AlRai AlAam) The President of the UN General Assembly inaugurated Wednesday the 62nd session of the Assembly amid growing concern to enhance the UN capacity to cope with international issues, notably the climatic changes.

UN Secretary- General Ban Ki Moon told the session that he reviewed with President Bashir Khartoum's rejection to hand over two Sudanese officials to the International Criminal Court (ICC) accused of committing war crimes in Darfur Region.

Moon, who visited Sudan earlier this month, said he informally discussed the matter with Bashir promising to continue tracing it. He disclosed that he asked President Bashir to embark on truce, cessation of military actions, provision of protection to employees of humanitarian services and allowing the smooth delivery of humanitarian aid to the region.

He warned from the clashes, recently erupted in the region, to hamper the peace talks, scheduled for next month, in Libya.

UN-AU high level meeting on Darfur convenes this week

(Sudan Tribune.Com) The United Nations and African Union (AU) leaders are expected to hold a high-level meeting on Darfur in New York tomorrow.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that he will chair a high-level meeting on Darfur with the AU chairperson Alpha Konare at the UN Headquarters.

The meeting is expected to discuss primarily the preparations for the upcoming peace talks scheduled for 27 October in Libya and the deployment of the UN-AU hybrid operation (UNAMID). The meeting is also expected to tackle some thorny issues such as the generation of high-quality troops, mandate of the force and its command structure.

European support lacking for Darfur mission -UN

(Sudan Tribune.Com) The head of U.N. peacekeeping operations said in an interview published Wednesday that he fears a shortage of helicopters, trucks and other transport equipment for a new U.N. force in Darfur.

Jean-Marie Guehenno also criticized a shortage of support from Europe for a 26,000-strong force for the troubled Sudanese region, and said the U.N. will have trouble mustering the police force it wants.

"It's true that there aren't a lot of offers from Europe at the moment," Guehenno told Le Monde newspaper. "The Nordics are ready to commit, but we don't have concrete proposals for high-level engineering units - to dig wells, for example -or for transportation." The peacekeeping chief also said that a recent upsurge in violence and splintering of rebel movements was a cause for concern, saying that raised the need for a robust force in Darfur.

GoNU (CPA, DPA, ESPA)

Salva Kiir denies differences over Sudan peace implementation

(*Sudan Tribune*) Sudanese first vice president and president of southern Sudan government, Salva Kiir Mayadrit denied existence of difference with the peace partner, the National Congress Party (NCP).

In a Ramadan banquet attended by the president Omer Hassan al-Bashir given in his new residence in Khartoum, Salva Kiir pointed out that participation of the president in the Ramadan breakfast banquet represents one of the values of the Sudanese society, which is characterized by brotherhood and love.

He further affirmed the commitment of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the NCP to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and to realize security and stability in the country, the official SUNA reported.

Salva Kiir reaffirmed the keenness of the Government of Southern Sudan to maintain security and stability to attract investors to southern Sudan, referring to the role of the private sector in this regard.

Government warns Sudanese refugees against accepting be awarded an Israeli nationality.

(*SMC*) Refugees' commissioner Mohammed Ahmed Al Aghbash said a delegation will leave to Cairo in due days to discuss with Egyptian foreign ministry the phenomenon of Sudanese infiltration into Israeli through Egypt. He said the step of awarding nationality for 300 Sudanese refugees constitutes strategic dimension. We should be aware of this" said Al Aghbash.

He explained that procedures for awarding nationalities to refugees based on following one, offering voluntarily repatriation to country of origin or be migrated to another states. He suspected that Israeli has awarded Sudanese refugees the nationality for inhumanity purpose.

Documents Collected for Demarcation Are Official Ones/ Demarcation Committee

(*Alwan, SMC*) The technical committee for demarcation of boundaries between north and south said it has collected official documents from British, Egypt and US congress. The collection was made upon Pre agreement between the technical committee members.

Head of demarcation committee professor Abdullah Al Sadig said the committee was formed based on national representation from north and south. He explained that his committee could consider documents presented by and party. However, he said the committee should not abide with the respective documents.

SPLM expresses reservation on elections draft law

(*AlAyam*) reported the SPLM expresses reservations on elections draft law. It demands Salva Kiir`s approval on nomination of the Elections Commission members.

The SPLM represented a number of reservations on the elections bill regarding the exclusivity of the nomination of the commission members by the President of the Republic alone, demanding the approval of the First Vice president as well.

An SPLM leader, Ramadan Shamila, informed *AlAyam daily* that the movement believes that Southern Sudan referendum must be excluded from responsibilities of the Elections Commission, making reference to article 11 which permits the Commission to stop or postpone the referendum for any reason.

Moreover, the SPLM reserves against the appeal process of the commission's decisions before the National High Court describing it as an impossible to achieve.

The act must include provisions on the accountability of the commission members in specific cases; otherwise the commission would not be subject to any supervision

SAF denies rebels accusations of bombardment of Beer Mazza and Anka areas

(*AlSahafa*) The SLM accused Wednesday the government of air raiding Beer Mazza and Anka areas in North Darfur killing one child and wounded two others, an allegation, which was categorically denied by the SAF.

SLM'S Field Commander Garelnabi Abdulkarim told (*AlSahafa daily*) that the SAF military planes raided these areas killing one child and injuring others threatening to retaliate in the appropriate time and place. He claimed that SAF have undertaken random raiding despite the cease-fire agreement and current attempts to hold a round of talks with Abuja non-signatory factions.

IDPS voluntary repatriation resumes next week

(*Alwan*) The GoNU and GOSS are to hold next week in a bid to seek channels of financing resumption of IDPs voluntary repatriation within the next month, while

GOSS, in the meantime, blamed the international community for failing to fulfill its financial obligations towards the return of the IDPs.

Coordinator of Voluntary Repatriation at GOSS Kurmaj Shoul said that the voluntary repatriation was earlier suspended due to the rainy season. He stressed that the GoNU was planning to repatriate million persons saying that they dispatched delegates to different states to count the number of those who wish to voluntarily be repatriated.

Missing Tripoli negotiations puts peace at risk

(Sudan Tribune) In a statement to Sudan Tribune, National Umma Party Chairman, AlSadig AlMahadi, emphasized that the key to emerging from the current national crisis is through regional conference for a just and peace.

Advising all parties to attend the upcoming Tripoli negotiations, AlMahadi warned that those who choose not to attend may later find it necessary to take up arms to claim their rights which they allowed to go by missing this promising opportunity.

The only solution to the Darfur conference said AlMahadi, is a Darfur-Darfur dialogue with neighboring countries as observers and the UN as sponsor. An international force will not do so much in the absence of cease-fire and a Darfur-Darfur dialogue cited the Umma Party Chairman. Who added that the Naivasha agreement is on the verge of collapse because it failed to achieve the five objectives namely comprehensive peace, decentralized government, democratic transformation, making unity attractive and building trust between the two signatories.

Return to war and foreign mediation are categorically rejected said AlMahadi cautioning that a return to war remains a possibility unless all national ills are addressed through a nation-wide conference.

Donors Arab Conference supports Darfur

(AlSahafa, Sudan Vision) The Arab Conference for supporting humanitarian situation in Darfur which is expected to commence at the end of next October is considered as vital.

The importance of this conference emanated from the fact that it provides basic necessities to Darfur people as health, education, food, water and housing and support of productive family scheme, which all will encourage voluntary return of displaced people to their original village areas.

According to the rapporteur of Arab Conference Preparatory Committee, Hassan Bargo, the total cost of all these schemes is 345 million dollars which is the sum allocated for rehabilitating 600 villages in Darfur.

Bargo stated that Donors Arab conference comes as a result of initiative by the national civil society organizations and was adopted by the Arab League.

The Conference is organized by the Arab League, The Egyptian Council for African Affairs, Darfur Organizations Network and the Government of Sudan.

Sudan must probe detainee torture claims-lawyers

(*Sudan Tribune.Com*) Lawyers for 25 people accused of plotting to overthrow the Sudanese government urged the authorities on Wednesday to investigate complaints that several of their clients were tortured by security forces.

"The minister of justice should form a committee to investigate these claims rather than just deny them," Nabil Adib, a member of the defense team, told a news conference.

Defense lawyers produced handwritten affidavits signed by the suspects attesting to torture by security personnel.

Mahadi Bakheit, who represents the detained leader of the Umma Party for Reform and Renewal, Mubarak al-Fadil, said: "The suspects told us they were tortured." The government has denied the torture allegations.

Justice Minister Ali al-Mardi has vowed legal action against rights group Amnesty International and accused it of spreading lies over reports that eight of the suspects were beaten, suspended by their wrists and tortured in a Khartoum prison. On Tuesday, Mardi said he had thrown out four appeals by defense lawyers urging the release of the suspects because the defense had failed to follow proper procedures.

Lawyers said Mardi was referring to three petitions from the accused and a defense complaint. These accused a justice ministry committee set up to investigate the allegations of coup-plotting as biased and demanded it be replaced.

Bakheit said the committee had allowed suspects to be brought in for questioning blindfolded and said suspects had reported being beaten in front of the committee head, who did not intervene. He said the committee had also obstructed the access of lawyers and family members to the accused.

None of the men, who also include the secretary-general of Fadil's party and the deputy head of the large opposition Democratic Unionist Party, has been formally charged.

Kiir criticizes Nur, denies differences with NCP

(*AlRai AlAam, SUNA website*)President of the Republic FM Omar Al-Bashir attended Ramadan breakfast banquet given by First Vice-President of the Republic and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit at his residence in Khartoum Wednesday [19 September] in the presence of Senior Assistant of the President of the Republic Mani Arkoi Minnawi and Assistant of the President Musa Muhammad Ahmad. In a press statement, First Vice-President Mayardit denied the existence of differences between the SPLM and the National Congress Party.

He pointed out that participation of the president of the republic in the Ramadan breakfast banquet represents one of the values of the Sudanese society, which is characterized by brotherhood and love. Mayardit affirmed the keenness of the SPLM and the National Congress Party to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement

(CPA) to realize security and stability in the country. Responding to a question on the role of SPLM in resolving Darfur issue, Mayardit called on Abdu al-Wahid Muhammad Nur to participate in the coming negotiations in Tripoli, affirming the SPLM keenness to find a solution to Darfur issue to realize peace all over Sudan.

The first vice-president of the republic and president of the government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit reaffirmed the keenness of the Government of Southern Sudan to maintain security and stability to attract investors to southern Sudan, referring to the role of the private sector in this regard.

GoSS

SPLA starts demobilizing 25,021 soldiers of its forces

(AlSahafa) The UN-based Nairobi office announced that the SPLA has started process disarming and demobilizing of former rebels and child soldiers with the support of the UN.

The SPLA is currently identifying ex- fighters including hundreds of child soldiers with a view to re-integrating them with their families.

Senior Administrator Brig. Arob Moiak told the donor conference on Sudan Security in the pro-war era that half of the ex- fighters were retired and a committee for old combatants was formed to look after them. He said that disarming the ex- combatants constituted priority of GOSS calling on the donors to assist GOSS in working out a plan for permanent re-integration to the former combatants.

20% will be allocated for southern Sudan employees

(AlSahafa) Chairman of National Civil Service Commission; Professor Moses Machar proclaimed government commitment to rehabilitate the civil service with transparency. He confirmed that there will be full cooperation among members of the commission to establish the principle of transparency in appointing people of the South.

In a press conference that he held yesterday in the commission administration office annexed to the presidency, he said that the commission is about to launch comprehensive training for the 20% of the Southerners expected to be accommodated in the civil service. He pointed out that training would be matched with the level of jobs.

Machar confirmed that the commission will conduct a comprehensive counting of the federal government jobs and joint committees with officials of Ministry of Labor were formed to assist in achieving this task.

SPLM prepares for troop withdrawal to the South of line 1/1/1956

(Sudan vision) The Co-chairman of the Ceasefire Commission, Al Dirdeeri Mohamed Ahmed, stated that the SPLM troops have moved out of AlMuglad to Abu Matarif and Dabab areas.

Al Dirdeeri informed Sudan Vision that SPLM is presently engaged in registering its troops in Abu-Matarif and Dabab in preparation for moving them to the south of borderline 1/1/1956, indicating that the UN is monitoring the development of the SPLM forces southwards and that the Commission will within a month receives a UN report on the evacuation process.

He revealed that an agreement has been struck within the Ceasefire Commission for the formation of a joint force for the protection of oil regions in implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Al Dirdeeri added the coming meeting of the Ceasefire Commission will discuss evacuation of the SPLM troops from Al Muglad in addition to some other issues.

Refugees sneak back to Kenya

(The Citizen) Refugees are sneaking back to Kenya after they have been brought and reintegrated in Southern Sudan, a United Nations agency has announced.

The Deputy Representative United Nations Bhairaja Pandey said some Sudanese refugees in Kakuma refugee's camp, in Kenya have been involved in what he calls as revolting door situations in Kakuma. The same returnees who had been to the camps, collects letters from some governmental official, recommending the refugee to go back to the County of Asylum instead of staying in the South.

It is a violation of the Tripartite Agreement signed on 12th January 2006, by the Government of the Republic of Kenya, Government of Sudan and UNHCR respectively.

According to the Tripartite, the technical working committee to call up the Government of South Sudan and the Government of Kenya to improve border controls and ensure that persons wishing to return to Kenya after the repatriation to South Sudan are in possession of regular travel documents.

Further more the commission urged the Government of South Sudan to desist from issuing travel letters authorizing persons to return to Kakuma Camp for medical, educational, family reunification or other purposes said Pandey.

New south Sudan oil block to be marked out

(Sudan Tribune) The south Sudan government said on Wednesday that it plans to offer a new oil concession, to be called Block E that will be formally delineated by a north-south oil commission.

The south's Industry, Energy and Mining Minister Albino Akol said several oil companies are interested in the concession but the National Petroleum Commission (NPC) will have to approve the block first. "The block has to be designated and then companies can apply," Akol said.

Block E stretches over three states and runs next to other concessions already contracted out. All three states will have to be involved in talks before any companies are signed on, Akol said.

The NPC will meet within the next three months, and Akol said it was likely that Block E will be put on the table.

He said that privately owned Spanish H Oil, which began negotiations for the block with southern rebels before the peace deal was signed, remained interested. The south Sudan Vice President had previously said H Oil had signed a memorandum of understanding with southern government officials.

Federal Government and GOSS Representatives Will Meet Next Week to Restart Repatriation Program

(SMC)-Federal government and Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) representatives will hold meeting next week to seek funds for financing southern IDPS repatriation program scheduled to start early next month. GOSS complains that donors have not committed to promises they made to finance repatriation program. GOSS coordinates of repatriation program Kormog Shoal told (SMC) that repatriation operations were suspended during rainy season.

However, he said lack of funds also hindered the operations. He said the federal government and GOSS are taking arrangements to coordinate repatriating one million southern IDPS living in the north. Delegations will leave to some cities such as Port Sudan, Kassala to register those who are willing to return to the south, Blue Nile and south Kordofan.

Darfur

Darfur rebels meet in Chad before peace talks

(Sudan Tribune.Com) Rebel groups from Sudan's volatile Darfur region gathered Wednesday in the Chadian capital Ndjamena to forge a common position ahead of next month's peace talks with the Khartoum regime.

Five rebel factions that did not sign up to a May 2006 peace agreement, inked in the Nigerian capital Abuja with the Sudanese government, were gathered for the preparatory talks, Chadian officials said.

"This meeting... aims at bringing Sudanese rebel groups which have not signed the Abuja accord to harmonize their positions and speak in a single voice at the Tripoli conference," a Chadian official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

African Union emissary Boubou Niang urged the groups gathered in Chad "to do all that is possible to forge a common platform before you leave for Tripoli.

Konare addresses Darfur meeting

(AlRai AlAam) African Union Commission (AU) President Alfa Omer Konaré left Wednesday for New York to attend a meeting devoted Friday to shed light on Darfur issue in the UN corridors.

A senior diplomatic source told (Al-Rai AlAam daily) that the AU attempts through intensive contacts with the member states to fill in shortage in police cadres decided to be deployed in Darfur prior to the evaluative report planned to be submitted to the meeting.

The source added that the UN Chief Ki Moon and AU President Konaré will address Friday evening the meeting of the UN Assembly on Darfur.

Hybrid operation dominates agenda of New York meeting, Akol

(*Sudan Vision*) The Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Lam Akol, will lead Sudan delegation to the United Nation General assembly No: 62 Meetings commencing tomorrow in New York.

Akol informed the press that the meeting on Darfur to be held on the sidelines of the General Assembly meeting should be viewed as continuation of Addis Ababa meeting of last year. According to him, the agenda could basically include Darfur peace talks, hybrid force deployment, African troop's contribution and the hybrid operation funding. He commented that the African troops offered as peacekeepers hit (190%), noting that emphasis were now on logistics dismissing the claim that the African troops were below UN standards.

France calls for protection force in Darfur neighbors

(*Sudan Tribune.Com*) France on Wednesday called for a joint force of United Nations and European Union peacekeepers to protect civilians in parts of Chad and the Central African Republic bordering Sudan's war-torn Darfur region.

It tabled a resolution at the UN Security Council for a mixed force in eastern Chad and the northeast of the CAR, where the refugee crisis caused by a brutal civil war in Darfur has spilled over.

The text approves a year-long "multidimensional presence intended to help create the security conditions conducive to a voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons."

It would consist of 300 UN police officers tasked with training 850 Chadian to police the displacement camps, and an EU military force of up to 4,000 to protect the areas — a proposal approved in principle by the Europeans in July.

This European contingent would also back up the 26,000 troops of the joint peace force agreed by the UN and the African Union and due to be fully deployed in Darfur by mid-2008.

The French military would play a major role in the EU force for Chad and the CAR, two of France's former colonies, with the operation headquartered in Paris, according to the text of the resolution.

France's ambassador to the UN, Jean-Maurice Ripert, said he hoped the resolution would be adopted by the end of the month.

Rebel group says Darfur battle kills 45

(Sudan Tribune.Com) A rebel leader from Sudan's war-torn Darfur region said his fighters defeated a government battalion on Wednesday in a three-hour battle that killed 45 people.

Sudan Liberation Army faction chairman Ahmed Abdul Shafi said one of his units attacked government soldiers stationed in the village of Dobow in the central Jabal Marra region. A Sudanese armed services spokesman was not immediately available for comment.

Shafi said he had ordered the attack to clear government forces from a key access route through his territory.

"This is territory controlled by the SLA Ahmed Abdul Shafi faction. The government was trying to block the roads to this area, to stop support coming to people in this area. We had to clear the roads. Now aid agencies will be able to come and bring help to the people who need it," he said.

Shafi said 40 government soldiers and five rebels were killed in the early morning assault, adding: "The rest of the government troops fled." The attack is the latest in a series of confrontations reported in Sudan's remote west that have cast a shadow over plans for peace talks between Sudan's government and rebel groups in October.

Germany approves deployment of policemen to Darfur

(Sudan Tribune.Com) The German Cabinet approved the deployment of up to 10 policemen to the Sudanese crisis region of Darfur, the German DDP news agency reported Wednesday.

The officials are to be deployed within the framework of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) monitoring mission. AMIS is to be turned into a new mission called United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) by the end of the year, which will be conducted by the AU and the United Nations together.

The German officials will then be sent to the new mission. Government spokesman Ulrich Wilhelm stressed that the German policemen will be advisers and trainers in Sudan and will not have any executive powers.

US envoy praises Chinese role in Darfur

(Sudan Tribune.Com) The United States' envoy to Sudan said on Wednesday that China has begun to play a "constructive" role in the troubled Darfur region, in a shift from earlier criticism that Beijing was not working for peace there.

Special Envoy Andrew Natsios, who in February urged China to step up diplomatic pressure on Khartoum, said China is now playing an important behind-the-scenes role to go along with its more visible peacemaking efforts. "I am very happy with the role the Chinese are playing," Natsios said at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank. "It is a constructive role."

Natsios in February criticized Beijing for signing economic deals with the Sudanese government and not pressuring it over Darfur.

China has been working to prevent Darfur from becoming a blot on its diplomatic record ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Beijing has claimed credit for persuading Khartoum to accept a planned 26,000-strong hybrid U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force for Darfur. Beijing also will send more than 300 engineering troops in October to help prepare for the main force.

SLM leader reiterates opposition to Darfur talks before security

(Sudan Tribune.Com) Abed Wahid Mohamed al-Nur, the founder leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement, reiterated in an interview published in the French capital today that he will not take part in peace talks until a lasting ceasefire is put in place and security is restored.

Al-Nur told the French *Le Monde* in an interview published Wednesday "I will refuse to take part in political negotiations as long as my people continue on the ground to be massacred, raped, and colonized."

The former Advocate, who is residing in Paris, said pressures from French government or the United Nations or the African Union would not dissuade him from his refusal to participate to a "repetition of Abuja."

He also dismissed that French authorities would expulse him for his intransigence. Further, he commended Bernard Kouchner, the French foreign minister, indication he was a good friend in the past but know is playing a national role that he respects.

Regarding the choice of Libya as venue for the forthcoming peace talks on October 27, Nur expressed his strong rejection saying "It is our right to choice the venue, the date of the talks and the type of mediation. Furthermore, the selected country should not be directly affected by the conflict and this is the case for Libya."

Rebel group urges UN to reconsider timing of Darfur talks

(Sudan Tribune.Com) A Darfur rebel group requested the delay of Darfur peace talks scheduled to start at the end of the next October in Libya. The group said parties are not ready to enter into genuine political talks.

Sudan Liberation Army faction of Ahmed Abdelshafi urged the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, to reconsider the timing of Darfur peace talks planned to convene in Tripoli on October 27. The rebel leader argued that "True confidence-building measures are needed on the ground" before.

Among the requested measures for confidence building, the rebel group suggested new ceasefire agreement followed with total halt of military operations in Darfur. Abdelshafi also suggested holding specialized consultations and workshops before the forthcoming round of negotiations. He said it would allow avoiding delay during the talks and help the rebel teams to develop common positions on the issues to be negotiated.