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(By Public Information Office)

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- **GoNU**
 - SPLM parliamentarians in South Darfur boycott parliamentary session yesterday
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HIGHLIGHTS:

AMIS-UN transition

Koffi Annan urges Sudanese government to accept UN troop deployment to Darfur

(*AlRai AlAam* – 20th Mar. **Khartoum**) Speaking to the press at the end of a four-day visit to Madagascar, UN Secretary-General Koffi Annan expressed hopes that the government in Sudan will cooperate with the UN on the issue of a transition of the AU forces in Darfur to the UN.

He said that the six-month extension of the AMIS mandate in Darfur gives the UN more time to prepare for a troop deployment to Darfur.

The Secretary-General described the situation in Darfur as critical but said Khartoum does not seem keen to allow for a deployment of UN troops to Darfur.

Council of Ministers forms committee to set alternative solutions to the Darfur issue

(*AlRai AlAam* – 20th Mar. **Khartoum**) The Council of Ministers is resolved to forming a political committee comprising all the political forces in government to draft alternative solutions to the Darfur issue in a bid to bolster the efforts of the negotiations team in Abuja.

The spokesperson for the Council of Ministers said the Council reserves the right to express reservations over some clauses of the recent decision on Darfur by the African Union Peace and Security Council.

NDA's el-Mirghani urges presidents Mubarak and Gadhaffi to send troops to Darfur

(*AlSahafa* – 20th Mar. **Cairo**) NDA leader Mohamed Osman el-Mirghani expressed hopes that Arab leaders attending the forthcoming Arab League summit meeting in Khartoum will consult with president Bashir to find an end to the problems of Darfur.

He told the press yesterday following a meeting with League Secretary-General Amru Musa in Cairo that he has sent letters to presidents Mubarak of Egypt and Gadhaffi of Libya to send troops to Darfur after consultations with President Bashir.

GoNU

SPLM parliamentarians in South Darfur boycott parliamentary session yesterday

(*AlAyaam* – 20th Mar. **Khartoum, Nyala**) MPs on an SPLM ticket walked out of yesterday's session of the legislature of South Darfur and accused their National Congress partners in government of lobbying to pass some political issues.

The head of the SPLM parliamentary bloc in the South Darfur Legislative Assembly said that the two sides were in heated argument yesterday because the session which was to be a regular session of the assembly turned out to be a session on political discussions on the issue of Darfur.

He said that the National Congress tried to raw SPLM representatives into condemning the plans for an AMIS-UN transition in Darfur and to endorse the recommendations of the el-Fasher Conference. He said that the SPLM's views are that those political issues on Darfur have to be sorted out in Abuja and that the recommendations of the el-Fasher conference do not represent the views of the people as the political forces and armed groups were not present in the conference.

The head of the SPLM bloc further pointed out that the Darfur issue could only be resolved through release of all political detainees and through a political process and not through condemnation.

Sudan, Uganda to renew military protocol

(*AlRai AlAam* – 20th Mar. **Khartoum**) Sources say a Uganda military delegation expected in the country in the coming few days will be holding talks with Sudanese military officials over the extension of the military protocol allowing them to pursue the LRA into Sudanese territory.

The sources add that the visiting military delegation will also discuss cooperation with the GoSS to tighten the noose on the LRA and flush it out as soon as possible.

CPA

Northern Sudan DDR commission accuses SPLM of sentencing to death by firing squad 4 PDF soldiers in southern Sudan

(*AlRai AlAam* – 20th Mar. **Khartoum**) The Northern Sudan DDR Commission has accused GoSS Vice-president Riek Machar of being behind the sentencing to death by firing squad of 4 Popular Defence Forces soldiers in northern Upper Nile State.

A statement issued by the commission and circulated to the press yesterday said that the GoSS V-p had issued instructions during a recent visit to disarm the people and appointed an SPLA officer to oversee the process. This, says the statement, sparked clashes between the SPLA forces and the citizens in the area.

The statement goes on to say that the SPLA force in the area under commander Charles Luk also ordered the PDF forces in the region to disarm within 48 hours but the PDF refused to do so and the two sides then clashed.

Dr. Salaf-el-deen Saleh, the head of the northern DDR commission, said that disarmament in this forceful way was not in line with the provisions of the CPA. He said responsibility for disarming the PDF lies with the northern DDR commission and underlined the need to abide by the dictates of the CPA in such incidents.

He also called for a panel to be formed of the northern and southern DDR commissions and the UN to investigate into the incident.

Darfur/ Abuja talks/Chad

Sudan intelligence chief visits Chad

(*AlRai AlAam* – 20th Mar. **Khartoum, N'Djamena**) The head of the Sudan Intelligence and Security Organ flew in to N'Djamena, Chad in a short visit yesterday during which he held talks with the Chadian president.

According to sources, the two discussed outstanding security issues between the two countries and means to start implementing the recommendations of the Tripoli Agreement that sets a roadmap to end tensions in relations between Khartoum and N'Djamena.

Southern Sudan/GoSS

LRA strikes in Yambio

(*AlAyaam* – 20th Mar. **Khartoum**) The spokesperson for the SPLA reports that the LRA has struck again in Yambio, Western Equatoria, killing two and abducting two others.

Mjr. Gen. Bior Ajiang said the LRA also took 4 VHF radios before fleeing towards the DRC with the SPLA on their heels. He said the SPLA managed to kill one of the attackers but could not cross over to the DRC in pursuit of the LRA.

He called upon the DRC to secure the border areas to prevent such LRA incursions and said SPLA soldiers will be deployed along the border strip with the DRC to that end.

Other Developments

Police launch investigation into the murder of a wealthy Omdurman resident

(*AlRai AlAam* – 20th Mar. **Khartoum**) The police in Khartoum has launched investigations into the murder of a wealthy Omdurman businessman whose body was discovered inside his car with the pistol used in the crime near the body.

The autopsy showed the cause of death as a shot in the head that penetrated the skull damaging part of the brain and causing severe haemorrhage.

Investigations continue into the murder.