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Highlights

Juba hosts donors' conference

GoSS Vice-President Dr. Riek Machar has confirmed that famine is threatening some parts of southern Sudan as a result of the food crisis that most of the states are facing, reports ***Al-Rai Al-Aam***.

Speaking at a donors' meeting in Juba to discuss the mechanisms needed towards the realization of food security in southern Sudan, he said that the situation calls for a long-term strategy. He added that the south requires some \$40 million to bridge the food gap for the next three months and he called for assistance from the donor community.

Al-Sahafa quotes State Minister for the Federal Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, Abdelbagi Al-Jilani, saying that the federal government has decided to channel all its funds earmarked for emergencies to southern Sudan to help ease the humanitarian crisis there as a matter of priority. He pointed out that Darfur has become less of a priority now that the humanitarian situation there is stable.

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Atem Garang, said the total cost of the humanitarian operation amounts to 47 million USD; 22 million for the air transport while the remaining 25 million will cover food assistance and healthcare programmes for children, reports ***Sudantribune.com*** (posted 15/08/09).

"The Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan are in a position to provide this amount (\$22m), if the donors fail to provide the needed support for the enforcement of the humanitarian operation," Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Hassabu Mohammad Abdullah told the reporters following the meeting.

The findings of assessment mission were presented yesterday to donors in a meeting chaired by the Vice-President of Southern Sudan government Dr. Riek Machar and in the presence of the ten governors of southern Sudan states as well as donors from China, Europe, Gulf Arab states and the US.

Southern Sudan Governors' Conference decries failure to end LRA issue

Participants at the just-concluded Southern Sudanese Governors' Conference held in Juba leveled criticism at the GoSS for failing to put an end to the LRA presence in southern Sudan, ***Al-Intibaha*** reports.

The Southern Sudan Governors' Conference also called on the GoSS to review ten major contracts involving huge amounts of money recently, reports ***Al-Sahafa***. GoSS' Presidential Affairs Minister Luka Biong said that the conference culminated in a series of recommendations on curbing insecurity, the forthcoming elections and the referendum. He said that participants also recommended the disarmament of civilians and called for a consensus over the census results that they said should not be pegged to the elections.

NCP condemns assassination of its member in Western Equatoria

NCP Secretary for Women's Affairs, Western Equatoria Chapter, was shot dead by gunmen in her house in Yambio, Western Equatoria, reports ***Akhir Lahza***. Salah Rajab, a prominent member of the NCP-Southern Sudan Executive Office, said that Mariam Bringi was killed when unidentified gunmen stormed into her house demanding money. They searched the house for the money, she said she did not have, shot her dead and broke the leg of one of her children before setting the house ablaze. The NCP has called for a full investigation into the incident that

comes when the party has just launched its grassroots campaigns.

Khartoum Monitor reports that the State Governor Nunu Jemma Kumba conveyed her condolences and condemned what she described as barbaric act. She further pledged the government's commitment to do all its best to bring the culprits to justice.

Sudan TV reported yesterday that President Bashir condemned the assassination.

In another development, the **SMC** reports that a group believed to be SPLM loyalists stormed into an NCP convention in Mundiri, Western Equatoria, and seized some party assets. NCP secretary for Greater Equatoria Kornelo Lado said that the attackers threatened participants and called off the convention. Lado said his party would undertake legal procedures against the attackers and called on the GoSS to investigate the incident.

In a separate story, **Al-Intibaha** reports that one person was killed, five injured and 35 abducted by unidentified gunmen in Western Equatoria last Saturday. The Governor of Western Equatoria has confirmed the incident and said that another group of unidentified armed men attacked and robbed the home of Ezo County Commissioner Ambrose Raphael last Friday.

Calm returns to Tonj North following recent clashes

(**Radio Miraya FM**)¹⁴ August -- Commissioner of Tonj North County, Deng Ayeing, said that cautious calm has returned to the area which witnessed inter-clan fighting this week. Speaking to Miraya FM, Ayeing said the police and army forces deployed in the area are in full control of the situation. He added that the Deputy Governor of Warrap State has visited the conflict area in order to evaluate the state of affairs. The Commissioner revealed that civilians fled the clashes into the bush pointing that they are in critical conditions. He further urged the international community and the humanitarian organizations to provide camping facilities and food to the displaced.

Sudan will continue developing its military: Al-Bashir

(**Sudantribune.com**)¹⁴ August - - Addressing the Sudan Armed Forces' 55th Anniversary celebration last Friday, President Bashir has pledged to support efforts by the army to develop its military arsenal particularly through locally manufactured arms. The Sudanese president hailed the manufacture of Sudanese-made "planes and weapons", saying his government would develop these institutions so that they can assemble all the equipment required by the armed forces. The Sudanese President hailed the "achievements" of the armed forces in recent years. "The armed forces fought for the sake of peace. Once peace was achieved, the armed forces were the first to accept the peace agreement and celebrate it," Al-Bashir said.

Sudan president replaces intelligence chief

(**Reuters** Khartoum, 14/08/09) President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir has issued a decree replacing Sudan's National Intelligence and Security chief Salah Gosh and appointing his deputy, Mohammed Atta-el-Moula, to replace him.

The official **SUNA** news agency, which reported the move late on Thursday, did not give a reason for moving Gosh, viewed as an influential figure in Sudanese politics for many years. SUNA said Gosh would move to be an adviser to the president.

The U.S.-based Human Rights Watch has accused Sudan's security body of abuse and has called for the International Criminal Court to investigate Gosh's role in the Sudanese government's attempts to quash rebels in the Darfur region.

Moula, an engineer by training, joined national security in 1992 and was made deputy in 2002, Sudan's independent daily **Al Sudani** newspaper said.

In a rare interview with **Reuters** in 2004, Gosh said the government had armed tribes against

Darfur's rebels. He said human rights violations had taken place but promised to bring the perpetrators to justice. Gosh joined national security 1990 and in 2002 he was given the top job, Al Sudani reported. The government intelligence body merged with security in 2004 and is one of the most powerful institutions in government.

SMC carried a profile of the newly appointed intelligence chief: He's born in Khartoum on April 1957 and a graduate of the Khartoum University, College of engineering 1982. He joined general security body in October 1992 and moved to the foreign security body in 1994. He took position of secretary-general for peace consultancy at the Republican Palace in 2000 and worked as peace bureau manager at the Sudanese embassy in Nairobi in 2001. He was appointed as deputy general manager for internal security body in August 2002 and as deputy general manager for national security and intelligence body in 2004. He's a member of Naivasha peace talks dealing with security arrangements dossier where he took part in ending the bloodshed caused by war in the south. He further participated in the Darfur Peace Talks in Abuja and Doha.

SPLM nominates members to Abyei boundary demarcation committee

The SPLM has nominated Ring Kual, Valentino Malwal and Kual Bisong as its members to the six-member Abyei border demarcation committee, reports **Akhir Lahza** daily. GoSS Presidential Affairs Minister Luka Biong pointed out that the committee would have a mandate of 30 days and would set out to work as soon as the Presidency of the Republic issues a decree.

Sudan, UNICEF and ICRC to cooperate to reintegrate Darfur child soldiers

(**Sudantribune.com**)¹⁴ August - - The North Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, UNICEF and the ICRC have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of children affiliated with the armed groups in Darfur. Despite different campaigns by different NGOs in the past against the recruitment of children to armed groups in Darfur, there was no legal framework to demobilize and reintegrate these children.

The head of the Northern DDR Commission, Sulaf Eldeen Salih, hailed the role played by the ICRC in reuniting children with their families, especially in remote rural areas of Darfur. "We can count on the ICRC in remote areas that other organizations cannot reach," he said. "The ICRC has never let us down."

Since the start of the Darfur conflict, the ICRC and the Sudanese Red Crescent have been working to restore contact between family members separated by the conflict, including children associated with armed groups, and to reunite them with their loved ones.

"Governments need to develop policies that meet the challenges facing rapidly increasing numbers of children associated with armed groups and to ensure effective protection of the rights of children," said Jordi Raich, the ICRC's head of delegation in Sudan.

"The ICRC urges armed groups to comply with the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which prohibits in all circumstances the direct participation in hostilities and the compulsory recruitment of persons under the age of 18 years," he further said.

The signing of the memorandum of understanding represents an important step in the right direction. "It is especially noteworthy that it coincides with the 60th anniversary of the signing of the four Geneva Conventions," Mr. Raich said. "The memorandum can be considered an anniversary gift to the children of Darfur."

A senior rebel leader, told Sudan Tribune about his efforts to fight the participation of children in the armed conflict in Darfur, but he had regretted the incapacity of UN agencies and NGOs to organize appropriate programmes to reintegrate them. "All what they can do is to send them

back to their family and many of them return because war is the only thing they know," he lamented.

Scott Gration expected here Monday

US Special Envoy Scott Gration is expected here tomorrow in what would be his fourth visit to the country, reports **Al-Rai Al-Aam**. The head of the Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ali Yusuf, said yesterday that Special Envoy Gration's forthcoming meeting is in the context of continuing bilateral talks between the two countries and would also focus on implementation of the CPA and means to resolve the conflict in Darfur.

According to **The Citizen** daily of 15/08/09, Gration pointed out that the US should acknowledge President Al-Bashir's positive role and that justice is progressing in Darfur.

Sudan opposition parties threaten vote boycott

(**Reuters**)15 August - - Main opposition parties have demanded changes to laws they say will prevent them from campaigning freely in next year's elections. Politicians on Saturday threatened to boycott the vote if no action is taken. "We have an ultimatum that all those laws should be amended before the elections ... (or) we will boycott the elections," Saddiq Yousif, a leader of the Communist Party, told **Reuters**.

Yousif said several laws needed to be changed in particular a security law and a clause in the criminal procedure law that allows governors to dissolve meetings. "We should be able to have our meetings without permission," Yousif said, adding laws should be changed by mid-October but that the president should order key parts suspended immediately.

The opposition grouping, which made the call for changes after a meeting on Saturday, comprises 24 parties, including leading groups such as the Umma Party, the National Unionist Party and the Sudanese National Popular Congress Party.

Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir has lashed out at the opposition parties calling for a postponement of the elections. According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, Speaker Al-Tahir who is a prominent member of the NCP said that advocates for a postponement of the vote are implementing a foreign agenda and do not have the country's interest at heart. Addressing the NCP convention in Northern State yesterday, Al-Tahir assured that the elections would be free and fair and said those who call for a postponement are already sensing their early defeat at the polls.

Voter education campaigns soon to kick off

The Sudan Human Rights Advisory Council, in collaboration with the UNMIS, is launching preparations to carry out voter education campaigns, **Akhir Lahza** reports. A prominent member of the Council said that the Council would organize a workshop in UNMIS on the general elections on 16/08/09. Participants at the workshop would discuss a number of issues including elections in Sudan, international electoral monitoring and the elections law against the backdrop of international standards.

Al-Ayyam also reports that the Khartoum State High Elections Committee has expressed **resolve** to carry out intense voter education campaigns within the IDP population in the state in the next few days.

Thirty-five children imprisoned in Juba prisons

Juba Prison is housing some 35 children on cases of theft, reports **The Citizen**. Luis Garang Apiu of the Juvenile Department at the Southern Sudan Police Service told a conference on juvenile justice in Juba last week that poverty was behind the thefts. Garang also added that the steering committee formed at the conference would assess all the data collection tools and mechanisms within the criminal justice system to ensure that they capture information as per the juvenile

justice indicators adopted for southern Sudan.

Government lists three tracks to resolve Darfur issue

Sudan has reiterated its commitments to find radical solutions to the problems of Darfur through the political, humanitarian and security tracks before the end of this year, reports **Rai Al-Shaab**. Speaking at a conference on Disasters and IDP Health held in Khartoum yesterday, Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail blamed foreign parties of causing a deterioration of the situation in Darfur and depicting the situation there as the “worst humanitarian crisis”. He said that the Darfur problem is of Israel’s making.

JEM calls for unified negotiating position for Darfur armed groups

Following a meeting in Tripoli yesterday with UN/AU Joint Special Envoy Djibriel Bassole, JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim told the press that his party is prepared to cooperate with the other armed groups in Darfur to ensure the success of the ongoing talks in Libya aimed at facilitating the Darfur talks. He called on the different armed groups in Darfur to unite their negotiating positions.

SLM renews rejections to Addis Ababa meet

SLM-Abdulwahid has reiterated its boycott of the US-backed SLM reunification meeting due to be held in Addis Ababa next week, reports **Al-Ahdath**. SLM Spokesperson Abdelrahman Adam Nimir said yesterday that the movement is prepared to discuss reunification with the other factions but through intervention of the US or any other mediator. The spokesperson called on the US and other mediators to provide the necessary logistics support for a reunification conference inside Darfur if they were serious about reunifying these factions.

On the other hand, the Rapporteur for the Darfur Lawyers’ Union has urged SLM leader Abdulwahid Mohammed Nur not to boycott the forthcoming SLM reunification meeting in Addis, reports **Rai Al-Shaab**. Al-Sadig Ali Al-Hassan pointed out that Abdulwahid’s continued boycott of such talks only send signal that he is not committed to the peace effort for Darfur.

SLM splinter groups warn against seeking alternative to Abdulwahid

Seeking alternatives to Abdulwahid’s leadership may not necessarily bring the Darfur conflict to an end, representatives of SLM splinter groups warn. **Akhir Lahza** reports that representatives of splinter factions agreed Abdulwahid could not be ignored because of the tribal base whose support he enjoys. They say his tribal and military bases should decide who would replace him.

Twenty five rebel commander break away from Darfur's SLM faction

(**Al-Sahafa** 13/08/09) Twenty five field commanders of the SLM rebel faction of Ahmad Abd-al-Shafi has broken away from the movement and decided to form a military committee, headed by commander Ibrahim Adam Babikir who would lead the group and work for its unification with the other Darfur factions.

The group's spokesman, Muhammad Al-Faiz, said that Ahmad Abd-al-Shafi leadership had failed the movement. He told Al-Sahafah newspaper that the group had formed a military committee to work towards a unified vision and solidarity with other Darfur factions.

He further added that the group split from Abd-al-Shafi's movement due to the fact that he was unable to lead the movement at this moment and that the committee would start holding discussion over its general assembly soon.

Governor blames insecurity on lack of funding from GoSS

(**SRS**) Speaking during the last day of the governors' forum in Juba on Friday, the Governor of

Central Equatoria, Clement Wani Konga urged GoSS to allocate funds to the states to enable them to cope with the conflicts. "The security committee can not survive without funds. The Government of Southern Sudan should support the states by providing them with funding...the essential things are not there..the people who should maintain security are the police, if you take for instance the police in Central Equatoria, we are 3,000. I have only 200, the rest of them use sticks. How can we deploy police to the areas where the citizens have guns, how can I deploy police with only a stick in Juba, where there are people who move around with guns? So the Minister of Interior should hurry up and bring the guns to the police".

Ministry has evidence of illegal arms sale in southern Sudan capital - official

(*Radio Miraya FM* 13/08/09) The Minister of Internal Affairs in the Government of Southern Sudan, Gier Chuang Aloung, said "his ministry has evidence that guns are being illegally sold in Juba". Addressing the 7th Southern Sudan Governor's Forum in Juba, minister Aluog said "the insecurity in the south is induced by enemies of the peace to show the world that the Government of Southern Sudan is incapable to control the security situation in the region".

He said that southern Sudan is faced with insecurity threats in urban and rural areas. Minister Aluog added that in the last seven months about one thousand eight hundred and sixty three (1,863) people have been killed, three hundred and forty one (341) injured and six hundred and four (604) children abducted, while over two thousand cattle has been rustled. He said that the root causes of tribal clashes and cattle rustling in southern Sudan are due to the absence of rule of law which is allowing people to take law into their own hands.

Catholic Church launches new radio station in South Sudan

(*Radio Miraya FM* 14/08/09) The Catholic Church has opened a local FM Radio in Malakal called the Sawt Al-Mahaba (in Arabic meaning the Voice of love). The station will broadcast news and programs in both English and Arabic.

Sudanese preacher slams France over female journalist accused of indecency

(*STV*) The Friday prayer sermon of 14 August was broadcast live on Sudan TV from Al-Shahid Mosque in Khartoum. The preacher was Shaykh Nazir Jalil al-Karuri and he spoke about the issue of public morality and its limits. He decried French President Nicolas Sarkozy for inviting a Sudanese woman journalist who is accused of dressing indecently. He said: "France which had earlier abducted Sudanese children in Darfur wants to abduct our daughter again." He criticized the conduct of the journalist and others in breaching public morality.

COMMENTARY: South Sudan faces new war over oil

(*Telegraph*) The gunmen who raided the cluster of mud huts beside the White Nile struck with merciless efficiency. By the time they vanished into the night, hundreds of homes had been razed, 11 people lay dead and the village's inhabitants faced starvation, having lost all their precious cattle.

"Everyone is on his own now," said Jamuth Nyading, a 42-year-old Sudanese herdsman, who gathered his two wives and 12 children and fled to the nearby town of Malakal. "You cannot cultivate, you cannot herd cattle, and you cannot go fishing in the Nile without risk of being killed. We can't go back, not only because of fear, but also lack of food."

Mr Nyading's ordeal would be grimly familiar had it taken place in Darfur, the region of western Sudan blighted by civil war and awarded the dubious blessing of world attention for the last six years.

Instead, he abandoned his home in southern Sudan, an area supposedly at peace since a landmark agreement four years ago ended decades of fighting. Struck in January 2005, this

"comprehensive peace agreement" was hailed as a moment of genuine hope. A rapturous signing ceremony brought down the curtain on the longest and bloodiest civil war in African history. The south had bitterly resented Khartoum's rule, claiming the northerners' attitudes had changed little since the days of slavery - when southerners were seen as heathens fit only for serfdom.

Entirely separate from Darfur's troubles, this ethnic and religious faultline inflicted suffering on a scale that almost defies comprehension, claiming two million lives during two spells of conflict, the first of which began a few weeks before Sudan won independence from Britain in 1956. The second round of this war between north and south, lasting from 1983 until 2005, started when an earlier peace deal collapsed.

Today, people in southern Sudan fear that history is repeating itself. The calm that has prevailed since 2005 is breaking down, while the "comprehensive peace agreement" is steadily unravelling.

This year, more people have been forced from their homes in the south - and more have died violently - than in Darfur. Some 214,000 refugees have fled their villages across the 10 southern states, while the death toll probably runs into the thousands. Only a fortnight ago, some 185 people were shot and speared to death in Jonglei State in a single morning. The central question is why all this fighting has suddenly begun. The south has always suffered tribal skirmishing, generally over cattle and grazing. Mr Nyading is from the Shilluk tribe, while the raiders who destroyed his village in Upper Nile state were from the Dinka people, their traditional rivals. But this time, observers claim to detect a hidden hand, stirring tribal enmity with much bigger stakes in mind. The renewed hostilities may be aimed at sabotaging a referendum set for January 2011 over independence for the south. The region's future has wider importance, for large oil reserves lie beneath its lush plains. Those reserves are coveted by the north as a resource to sell to China, whose appetite for Sudan's oil has given Khartoum a financial and diplomatic windfall.

During the civil war, when rebels from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) fought President Omar al-Bashir's regime, the north deliberately ignited ethnic conflict in the south, arming some tribes to fight others. Ministers in the Government of Southern Sudan, which has enjoyed autonomy since the 2005 peace agreement, believe Khartoum is back to its old tricks. "We suspect with some evidence that our partners in the north are still training, arming and sending to southern Sudan the former militia groups who fought alongside them during the war," said General Oyay Deng Ajak, a former SPLA chief of staff who now serves as the south's regional cooperation minister.

"There is an increase in weapons and supplies coming into southern Sudan from the north. Somebody, somewhere is coordinating this operation and we very much suspect it is our brothers in Khartoum."

Both north and south know the clock is ticking. If the referendum goes ahead in January 2011, as laid down in the peace agreement, few doubt the south will choose to break away and a new country will emerge in the heart of Africa.

But the south has about 75 per cent of Sudan's 6.3 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, giving the north a vital interest in preventing it from seceding. One way would be to stir violence across the south, to the point where the situation is too unstable for the referendum to be held.

"They want to make southern Sudan ungovernable," said Gen Ajak. "They want to discredit us and tell the international community 'these people cannot govern themselves and if they become independent, they will be a failed state'."

China's interests are closely aligned with Mr Bashir's. Beijing has invested heavily in developing Sudan's reserves, which provide between seven and ten per cent of China's imported oil. The

China National Petroleum Corporation, a state energy giant, is exploiting the most productive fields, including those in the south, and Beijing has also built a 900-mile pipeline linking these reserves with Port Sudan on the Red Sea.

To guarantee these supplies, China needs Sudan to stay united. President Hu Jintao has duly sold weapons, including jet fighters, to Sudan's armed forces and given Mr Bashir consistent diplomatic support.

Either way, the referendum carries huge risks. If the poll is delayed or cancelled, Gen Ajak said that people in the south would feel cheated and another war could start. If, however, the referendum goes ahead and the south chooses independence, the north may launch a war to hold onto the oil.

Some believe the recent violence amounts to the opening shots of this new conflict. The claim of a "hidden hand" behind at least some of the killing is supported by independent evidence. A ship recently arrived in Malakal having travelled up the Nile from Khartoum. A 30-year-old man, who saw the vessel being searched, told the Sunday Telegraph that it contained Kalashnikov assault rifles and ammunition, hidden beneath a cargo of food. Another 20-year-old man said the national army had tried to recruit him for a monthly salary of £200. Those who sought to entice him said they had been ordered to sign up 400 southerners in Malakal alone. These recruits, once in Khartoum's pay, could be used to destabilise their homeland.

The bitter mistrust between the SPLA and their old enemies in Khartoum has already cost lives in Malakal. The town's muddy streets were pounded by heavy artillery and tanks in February when a day of fighting between the two sides left at least 60 dead. A school was bombarded, killing about a dozen children. The United Nations is now digging shelters for its staff in Malakal.

However, there is no conclusive proof of a high-level decision in Khartoum to cause turmoil in the south. The region, which covers an area three times the size of Britain, possesses less than 13 miles of tarred road and is one of the poorest places on earth. Yet the Government of Southern Sudan chooses to spend 30 per cent of its budget on the military - independent estimates say this figure may be nearer to 60 per cent - while health, education and development get only 28 per cent.

These priorities suggest the south is arming for war, leaving foreign aid agencies to conduct development work. But the recent violence has disrupted even the aid workers' efforts. "We're looking to do longer term, more sustainable interventions," said Maya Mailer, a policy adviser for Oxfam. "But when this insecurity takes place and people are displaced as a result, we're pulled back into doing emergency programming."

In Malakal, many fear that another war is inevitable. A local chief, who asked not to be named, said his people were caught between the SPLA and Khartoum. "Every community is being divided by the two governments, so people who are on one side are encouraged to attack the other side," he said.

The chief's own village was raided in December, an incident he blames on Khartoum's allies. "The people are bribed with money and guns to attack their own people. They are our own relatives who attack us," he said.

INTERVIEW: "Former President better than just President," Al-Bashir

The *TIME's* Sam Dealy sat down for an interview with President Omar Hassan al-Bashir in Khartoum two weeks ago. The interview — his first with the American newsmedia since the ICC's arrest warrants were issued — was conducted in collaboration with "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" on PBS and covered, among other issues, the ICC arrest warrant, the conflict in Darfur, and diplomatic relations with the US. Excerpts of the interview have appeared in the

local press with a full translated transcript on the pages of ***Al-Ahdath*** daily. (*Click the link or read the separate attached supplement to this MMR for the full text of the interview <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1916262,00.html>*).