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(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

➤ **UN/ Agencies/ Partners**

- High Commissioner for Refugees accompanies a refugee convoy from Uganda
- Presidential aide, relief organization discuss Darfur

➤ **The UN Support Package to the AMIS and related issues**

- Ghanaian leader in talks with UN envoys
- Sudan's Darfur rebels meet in Egypt on unity
- JEM representatives in Cairo for talks with officials
- China, Ethiopia "hold identical views" on Darfur issue - Chinese envoy
- Darfur crisis towards peaceful breakthrough- Sudanese official

➤ **CPA**

- SPLA announces effective integration of largest South Sudan militia

➤ **GoNU**

- Sudan president scoffs at Darfur sanctions
- Parliamentary committee criticises performance of the Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Interior reveals involvement of key figures in the Gereida mass grave issue
- Ten Sudanese MPs relinquish seats for ex-rebel front
- Chadian president to arrive in Sudan 25 June

➤ **Southern Sudan**

- GoSS minister of says cannot allow Khartoum control over media or telecommunications
- The ministry of health launches health care system in south Sudan
- Norway to fund hospital in southern Sudan

The Ugandan government will consult citizens of northern Uganda for reconciliation

➤ **Darfur**

- New US envoy denies his country has hidden agenda against Sudan
- Armed groups accuse government of bombardment; SAF rebuffs
- Dr. Khalil announces integration of AlShahama movement into the JEM
- Mass grave found in Darfur

➤ **Other Developments**

- National Congress Party accuses the SPLM of inciting the Nubians in Kajbar
- French Ambassador's residence in Khartoum goes up in flames
- The Eastern Front denies media reports that the Front had made changes in its nominees

Highlights

UN/ Agencies/ Partners

High Commissioner for Refugees accompanies a refugee convoy from Uganda

(<http://Miraya> on 18 June '07) The high commissioner of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, joined the Sudanese Refugees convoy coming from Moyo, northern Uganda, to Kajo-keji in Central Equatoria.

The convoy should reach Kajo-Keji later today; and Guterres is expected to celebrate the World Refugees Day in Juba on Wednesday.

Presidential aide, relief organization discuss Darfur

(*Sudan TV via BBC Monitoring*) Senior Presidential Aide and head of the Transitional Darfur Authority, Mani Arkoi Minawi, was briefed by the Director of the International Organization for Migration [IOM] Brunson McKinley, on the activities of Clemendo Development Foundation which operates in Darfur in collaboration with IMO.

Minawi also acquainted himself with IOM's activities in humanitarian and voluntary work for Darfur's citizens, such as drilling wells and building schools and hospitals, within the framework of the assistance provided by the organization in Darfur. The IMO director explained the purpose of his visit and the activities he planned to undertake in Darfur.

Minawi also received a delegation from the US [name unclear] organization, which is involved in the domain of reconstruction. The meeting dealt with the projects undertaken by the organization in various areas of Darfur and proposed projects to help the people of Darfur.

The UN Support Package to the AMIS and related issues

Ghanaian leader in talks with UN envoys

(Ghana Radio via BBC Monitoring) A 15-member UN Security Council mission to Africa met at the castle [seat of government]. The mission under the joint leadership of UK'S ambassador to the UN Emyr Jones Parry and his South African counterpart Dumisani Kumalo briefed President Kufuor on the outcome of trips to Ethiopia and Sudan.

The mission informed President Kufuor that the government of Sudan has agreed to the deployment of hybrid AU and UN peacekeepers. Mr Jones Parry said the council while in Ethiopia held discussions with the AU'S peace and Security Council to enhance cooperation between the two bodies. He commended President Kufuor as the AU chairman of AU on efforts being made to achieve lasting peace on the continent. Mr Jones Parry proposed an annual meeting between the council and the AU to develop closer relations.

The permanent US representative to the UN Dr Zalmay Khalilzad said the US is prepared to provide logistic support to Ghana's contingents to Somalia and Sudan. He said the mission is in the country to seek President Kufuor's advice which will enhance the work of the Security Council in matters of peace and security on the continent and in the world. President Kufuor appealed to the Security Council to provide funds and logistics to enable the peacekeeping force in Sudan to facilitate the truce between the government and the rebels. He asked the mission to consider the AU' Security Council as a partner and resource it to deal with security matters on the continent.

President Kufuor told the mission that promises of support are good but fulfilling them in time is very important.

Sudan's Darfur rebels meet in Egypt on unity

(Sudan Radio via BBC Monitoring) A meeting of Darfur rebels holding out of the Darfur Peace Agreement [DPA] began in Cairo [Egypt] today under auspices of the chairman of the Democratic Unionist Party, Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani.

The meeting is aimed at unifying the armed movements so as to guarantee that negotiations with them will be successful. This came after a meeting between the president of the republic, Umar Hasan al-Bashir, and Al-Mirghani during Al-Bashir's recent visit to Cairo where they agreed for Al-Mirghani to continue his efforts towards unifying the Darfur movements opposed to the DPA.

JEM representatives in Cairo for talks with officials

(AlHayat) The JEM has launched a new initiative in which it affirms that the quest for a military solution to Darfur is over and that time is ripe to start the process for a just peace and to stop the killing, destruction and suffering in Darfur.

Representatives of the JEM issued a statement following a meeting yesterday with top representatives of the Egyptian government within the framework of monitoring the efforts exerted by the Egyptian government to resolve the problem of Darfur.

China, Ethiopia "hold identical views" on Darfur issue - Chinese envoy

(Xinhua via BBC Monitoring) Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi on Monday called for resolving the Darfur issue through political means, saying that new pressure or sanctions against Khartoum would only complicate the issue and make it more difficult to resolve.

He said the Darfur issue would be resolved only through political means within the framework of the tripartite consultation mechanism of the African Union (AU), the United Nations and the Sudanese government.

During a meeting with Liu Guijin, special representative of the Chinese government for Darfur, Meles stressed that the leading role of the AU and the UN should be played in resolving the Darfur issue.

As a member of the AU and a friendly neighbour of Sudan, Ethiopia hopes the Darfur issue would be solved at an early date, he said.

Darfur crisis towards peaceful breakthrough- Sudanese official

(Xinhua via Sudantribune.com) Visiting Sudanese Minister of Information and Communication Zahawi Ibrahim Malek said on Tuesday that the Darfur issue was moving towards a peaceful breakthrough, the Egyptian official MENA news agency reported.

The world will be surprised to see Sudan's arrangements to help close ranks to achieve a settlement of the Darfur issue, but he did not give any further details.

Malek made the remarks upon his arrival in Cairo to take part in the 40th ordinary session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Information scheduled to open in Cairo on Wednesday.

Other stories:

- [NSLM memo for the New Road Map to the solution of Darfur crisis](#)

CPA

SPLA announces effective integration of largest South Sudan militia

(SudanTribune.com) After 18 months of the signing of Juba Declaration on the integration of the largest militia in the region, Southern Sudan army has effectively recognized the elements of the militia as members of its forces.

Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) spokesperson Major General Kuol Deim Kuol told the Nairobi based Sudan Radio Service that the SPLA general headquarters will communicate to all SPLA units across Sudan to officially recognize the members of the SSDF into the SPLA.

Major General Kuol said that over 50,000 former soldiers of the Southern Sudan Defense Forces have now been officially integrated into the SPLA and the Government of Southern Sudan's civil service.

"The list of something going to 3,700 officers had been radioed through radio communication to all the units of SPLA. This is how we do our things in the SPLA. Any officer joining the SPLA, then we make him known to all the units of SPLA so he enjoys the respect with the rest of the SPLA officers."

The SPLA spokesman added that the Government of Southern Sudan will be requested to adjust its budget to pay salaries for the newly integrated soldiers.

Under the command of General Paulino Matip, the SPLA Deputy Commander-in-Chief, the SSDF is the south's largest militia. SSDF soldiers would now be paid and treated as equals with SPLA troops and were moving into SPLA barracks throughout the south.

Southern Sudan spends approximately \$550 million a year on its army, around 40 percent of the total budget.

A breakaway SSDF faction led by Gordon Kong has not yet agreed to join either army. Sudan's north-south civil war claimed 2 million lives and forced more than 4 million from their homes.

GoNU

Sudan president scoffs at Darfur sanctions

(*AFP; AlRai AlAam*) Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir said on Tuesday he was not concerned by the prospect of more US sanctions, saying existing ones had helped his country to stand on its own two feet.

"Let the new madmen or the new conservatives pick whatever they want as sanctions, we will bow only before God," Beshir said in a speech at the Giad group's industrial site, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Khartoum.

He was speaking a day after the top US diplomat for Africa said the threat of more sanctions against Sudan would only be lifted when Khartoum makes good on its pledge to allow United Nations peacekeepers into the war-torn western region of Darfur.

In his speech, Beshir said that "sanctions and attempts at embargo have only been positive for Sudan."

Referring to the withdrawal of foreign oil companies from the country 20 years ago during the war with rebels in the south, he said: "That allowed us to turn to the East (Asia), and the East has never let us down."

He also referred to armaments, saying the refusal of Western countries to supply the Sudanese armed forces had allowed his country to develop its own industry.

"The Yarmuk complex satisfies all our conventional arms needs, and we produce our own munitions, from the simple bullet to rockets."

The president said the next challenge for Sudan will be to develop integrated industries and an agricultural sector that is competitive in world markets.

Addressing the teaching staff at Gezira University in Gezira State yesterday, President Bashir vowed that no citizen of the country who believes in the *Sharia* laws will be handed over to the ICC, reports *Alwan* daily.

He also promised to muster support of all the people of Sudan to resolving the Darfur problem.

While diplomats believe Sudan may seek a formal apology from the US over the recent statements by Jendayi Frazer, Sudan's Ambassador to Washington pointed out that the US wants neither peace nor stability for Sudan. *AlRai AlAam* daily reports.

The ambassador described as "a lie" statements by the US representative at the Security Council delegation that recently concluded a visit to Sudan who said that Washington was committed Sudan's independence and territorial integrity. He pointed out that the US had earlier announced it will brand as terrorist those armed groups that fail to sign the DPA within 90 days from the date of signing but now considers them as friends.

Parliamentary committee criticises performance of the Ministry of Justice

(*AlSahafa*) The legislature and justice committee in parliament has fiercely criticized the ministry of justice arguing that the ministry has not pushed for the amendments of a number of legislature that are yet to be harmonized with the constitution.

The minister of justice also came under attack from MPS for his handling of the issue of the international criminal court. A number of representatives have called on parliament to summon the minister of justice related queries.

Ministry of Interior reveals of involvement of key figures in the Gereida mass grave issue

(*Alwan*) The Minister of Interior confirms that investigations show that some seven people including five prominent members of the SLM-MM many have been involved on the issue of the mass Graves uncovered in Gereida, near Nyala in South Darfur. The ministry has declined to provide the names of the culprits for fear of prejudice to the course of justice.

The minister of interior who was answering queries over the mass Graves in Gereida also accused the SLM of torturing the civilians in the region following reports of an attempted assassination of the deputy leader of the SLM.

The minister further revealed that judicial authorities have requested the competent bodies to strip the suspected SLM members of immunity so they could be brought to justice.

Ten Sudanese MPs relinquish seats for ex-rebel front

(*AlSahafa*) Ten MPs from the ruling National Congress have relinquished their seats in the parliament to give opportunity for the new comers from the [ex-rebel] Eastern Front [EF] to be included in the parliament in accordance with the Asmara agreement. This came about after other political forces refused to relinquish some of their seats.

Parliament speaker Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir said that at the beginning of today's session he would announce the arrangements for the inclusion the eight new members from the Eastern Front, in accordance with the Asmara agreement signed last October.

Al-Tahir yesterday told reporters that ten NC members had submitted their resignation to give their seats to the eight new [EF] members. He explained that until yesterday, no other party had relinquished any seats .

The NC block in the parliament headed by Dr Gazi Salah al-Din had carried out consultations with different parliamentarian blocks for that purpose. However, all of the blocks were not ready to relinquish any seats.

Chadian president to arrive in Sudan 25 June

(*SUNA via BBC Monitoring*) Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno will arrive in Khartoum next Monday [25 June]. His visit will be preceded on Saturday [23 June] by a high-level delegation that includes the ministers of foreign affairs, defense, interior, and national infrastructure, as well as senior advisers and ambassadors at the Chadian Foreign Ministry, on a three-day visit to the country.

The Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) has learned that talks between the two sides, led by Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir and Idriss Deby Itno of Chad, will focus on ways of implementing the agreements reached in Tripoli and Riyadh between the two countries, especially security arrangements along the common border.

Sudanese Ambassador to Chad Abdallah al-Shaykh said that the visit comes at a time when bilateral relations are at a state of complete normalization and steady development, which will have repercussions on the stability of the situation in Darfur.

He added that the developments on the scene now, beginning with the agreement by the government, the UN, and the AU in Addis Ababa, and the subsequent visit by the UN Security Council delegation to Khartoum, are all indicators that will contribute to peace and stability in the Darfur region and improve conditions and relations with neighbouring countries.

Other Articles :

- [Sudan a failed state? Depends where you live](#)

Southern Sudan

GoSS minister of says cannot allow Khartoum control over media or telecommunications

(*The Citizen*) the minister of information and telecommunications in the government of southern Sudan says they cannot allow the Khartoum government to control the media and telecommunications in southern Sudan.

The minister said while addressing a forum organized by the southern Sudan media organs in Juba yesterday that the memorandum reached with his Government of National Unity counterpart was a gentleman's agreement but pointed out that the GoSS will resume licensing FM radios in southern Sudan if the federal ministry violates the said agreement.

He pointed out that there is an information committee working on modalities

The ministry of health launches health care system in south Sudan

(<http://Miraya> website) The ministry of Health has launched a Decentralized Health Care System in Southern Sudan. This is the first ever Health Assembly to take place in the South. The occasion will be made an annual event. Miraya FM Susan Dokolo filed this story... The three-day meeting taking place in Juba will deliberate health issues and a policy framework to decentralize health care for effective service delivery, among other things. Speaking to Miraya FM, the Director of External Coordination in the ministry of Health in the government of South Sudan (GOSS), Dr Atem Nathan said... "In this meeting we are going to be talking about roles and responsibilities at the various levels. So that we are clear about who does what at which level, and also we shall trash out the issue of decentralization such as the resources. "The event has brought participants from all the ten state's ministries of health, donors, United Nations Agencies and non-governmental Organizations, while the meeting is organized by the Ministry of Health in the government of South Sudan with the Support of development partners.

Norway to fund hospital in southern Sudan

(*SRS via BBC Monitoring*) Norway is funding the construction of a hospital in Machi-Kapoeta South County to serve communities in Eastern Equatoria State.

Speaking to Sudan Radio Service by phone from Kapoeta on Friday [15 June], Kapoeta-South County Commissioner Peter Lokuju said the hospital is expected to be complete sometime next month. He says it will be a large medical facility.

Mr Lokuju said that the Norwegians will run the hospital for five years before handing it over to the county authorities. Construction of the hospital started in February this year and is being done by a construction firm called Normega.

Meanwhile, Kapoeta-South County is facing a water shortage.

Mr Lokuju said that Kapoeta town has too few boreholes to serve the many returnees, IDPs, resident communities, and their livestock. He said there is concern, also, about people and livestock sharing water resources.

Mr Lokuju appealed to NGO's to help the county dig more boreholes, especially around Kapoeta.

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The Ugandan government will consult citizens of northern Uganda for reconciliation

(<http://Miraya> website) The spokesman of the Ugandan government delegation, Captain Barigye Ba-Hoku said the intended consultations are aimed to get input from the war affected people. Captain Ba-Hoku did not specify the date when the consultation will take place, but he thinks the consultations will take place after signing a document on the principles on accountability and reconciliation by the two sides.

The Ugandan delegation spokesman, Captain Barigye Ba-Hoku said, “We have a program where we shall do a wide consultation process in the near future and it is at that stage that we would pick the views of all the stake holders of this peace process. But specially the stake holders from northern Uganda, whether they are women, children, who ever they are, they have the opportunities to give their views how do they want to reconcile with those who have hurt them. What do they expect, repatriation, settling them back into their villages, fortunately the government have even designed other programs prior to the peace talks started”.The two delegations are currently still independently working on agenda three. Our sources said the two teams might converge and meet later this week.

Darfur

New US envoy denies his country has hidden agenda against Sudan

(SUNA via BBC Monitoring; AlSahafa) The new US ambassador to Sudan, Alberto Fernandez, has said his country's policy towards Sudan was based on respect for its sovereignty and unity. He denied his country had an agenda or conspiracy to dismantle Sudan.

This came about in a meeting with the acting governor of Northern Darfur Sate, Idris Abdallah Hasan, and the state security committee, in the framework of his visit to southern and northern Darfur states that began yesterday. He said his country's move towards Darfur was purely a humanitarian one which is aimed at offering aid to IDPs [Internally-Displaced Persons] and refugees in their camps, and to [help] them return back to their homes.

He said his recent visit was aimed at finding facts on the ground and getting acquainted with government's efforts in protecting the civilians, preparing the ground for the return of the IDPs and opening up dialogue with all so as to reach a middle ground solution.

The US ambassador stressed the importance of a serious political process that would lead to successful negotiations, resulting in a solution following the acceptance of the government to the hybrid [peacekeeping] force. He said establishment of development projects was essential in Darfur.

He said the US offered humanitarian aid worth 1bn dollars in recent years to those affected by the Darfur and south wars through organization operating there, adding that his country was the biggest donor of humanitarian aid to Darfur. He said it was possible his country would double the aid to 2bn dollars in the developmental fields. He reiterated that his country would work with the international community and support the efforts being made by local communities in Darfur to resolve the issue.

The governor of Northern Darfur State, Idris Abdallah Hasan, said the humanitarian situation was improving after the signing of the Abuja Agreement [DPA]. He called on the USA to play a clear role in the political process by putting pressure on the non-signatories to the DPA to come to negotiation table.

He blamed the armed movements on security breaches, saying the IDPs would not be able to return to their homes as long as there were armed groups fighting against the government. He also urged the US and the international community to participate in IDPs and refugees repatriation programmes and the establishment of development projects in their areas.

Asked about his country's view on Darfur, he [the ambassador] said his country believed that the best way to resolve the Darfur issue was to seek political solution. He pointed out that there were steps being taken [to that effect], including Sudan's acceptance of hybrid forces. He said this should be followed by serious negotiations to reach a solution.

He hailed the AU and the UN efforts to create ground for negotiations between the warring sides, saying that this was a road map supported by his country to resolve the Darfur issue.

The US ambassador's visit will continue for today and tomorrow and he will meet [representatives of] the AU and the UN missions. He will also visit the USAID Centre, the Humanitarian Aid Coordination Office and the Sultan Ali Dinnar's Palace [a museum in Al-Fashir, Northern Darfur].

On the other hand, Sudan Radio [*sourced from BBC Monitoring*] reports that the US ambassador to Sudan , Alberto Fernandez, has denounced what he called tarnishing of the US image among Sudanese people by local media. He also called on the Sudanese government to continue its dialogue with the Sudanese people in an open way.

In a meeting with the governor of Southern Darfur State, Al-Haj Ata Manan, in Niyala, Fernandez denied that his country was conspiring against Sudan, and called for the urgent repatriation of IDPs to their homes and to provide assistance to them.

He said his visits to Darfur states would continue in order to support the Darfur people.

Armed groups accuse government of bombardment; SAF rebuffs

(*AlAyaam*) A commander for the opposition SLA says government has launched continuous bombardment until last Monday of areas east of Jebel Mara and in North Darfur.

But the office of the Spokesperson for the SAF has strongly rebuffed the claims saying that government is on the path to peace and the situation does not warrant military activity in the area.

Dr. Khalil announces integration of AlShahama movement into the JEM

(*Akhbar Alyaum*) JEM leader Dr. Khalil Ibrahim has announced that the AlShahama movement has been integrated into the JEM.

Speaking over phone from the field, Khalil further revealed that AlShahama's Mohamed Bahar has been appointed Vice-President of the JEM and secretary for the Kordofan region while Ammar Adam Mohamed, also of the AlShahama, has been appointed JEM military commander for Kordofan.

Mass grave found in Darfur

(*Sudan TV via BBC Monitoring*) The National Assembly [Parliament] heard a reply by Interior Minister Professor Al-Zubayr Bashir Taha to the question posed by parliament member Lt-Gen Awad Abdallah Shigit on the mass grave that was discovered in the area of Rahad al-Izam [as heard], north of Gereida, in the Province of North Darfur.

The minister said in his statement before the National Assembly that Gereida is among the areas that are under the control of the Sudan Liberation Movement, which has signed the Abuja Agreement, and the AU forces. He said there is not any military, security, or administrative presence there by the government.

The Interior Minister said that suspicion has been narrowed down to seven suspects and that police is waiting for immunity to be lifted from them as a prelude to initiating legal procedures against them. He stressed at the same time concern by police to complete the litigation procedures in collaboration with South Darfur Governorate and prosecution and judicial bodies.

Other Articles:

- [INTERVIEW: Sudanese communist leader urges govt to admit Darfur crimes](#)

Other Developments

National Congress Party accuses the SPLM of inciting the Nubians in Kajbar

(*Allintibaha*) The Government of Northern State has accused political parties it did not name of inciting the citizens of the Kajbar dam area to riot against the construction of the dam.

The state's governor said that protestors had used sticks, shovels and petrol gallons to destroy machinery at the construction site and the houses of the technicians.

The adviser to the state governor who doubles up as state prosecutor says however that the SPLM may be to blame for inciting the citizens. He reveals that two statements were circulated by the SPLM in the region ahead of the protests in the Kajbar area that left five people dead.

French Ambassador's residence in Khartoum goes up in flames

(*AlSahafa*) The residence of the French ambassador to Sudan burned down in ashes yesterday. Authorities are investigating the cause of the fire. No loss of life was reported.

Sources speculate that the fire may have been caused by an electric short circuit or a gas explosion. The ambassador was not in at the time.

The Eastern Front denies media reports that the Front had made changes in its nominees

(<http://Miraya>) The spokesman for the Eastern Front, Abdallah Musa, has denied media reports that the Front had made changes in its nominees for the presidency. Earlier reports said that the Eastern Front is having differences regarding the nominees made by the Front for constitutional posts. Speaking to Miraya FM Abdallah Musa said that the nomination has already been endorsed by the president of the republic adding that there will be no procedural changes.

Musa said that the Eastern Front issued a decree freezing all its activities in the country. "The decision for the appointment of the assistant to the president, the advisor, and the State minister has been ratified by Musa Mohammed Ahmed through diplomatic channels to the President of the Republic," said Musa. He added, "and the President had issued a presidential decree for the appointment, so the issue is finished and it is not a discussion". Musa said that he is hoping that people who are affiliated to the Beja Congress should stop revealing such statements which not true.