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UN/Agencies

- UN chief requests Japanese participation in south Sudan peace Mission (ST)
- Japan to dispatch GSDF personnel to Sudan (Japan Today)
- UN Assistant Secretary General for Rule of Law visits Sudan (Al-Ayyam)

GoNU

- Presidents of Sudan, Libya and Chad are likely to meet in Egypt (Al-Sahafa)
- Electoral Act will be tabled before the Parliament today (Al-Intibaha)
- Sudanese political forces agree to hold general elections in 2009 (ST)
- JDB decides immediate withdrawal of brigade 31 from Abyei (Al-Intibaha)
- The Presidency meets by the end of this week (Akhbar Al Yom)
- Sudan's 1956 North-South border map is non-existent - committee (ST)
- Iran proposes new initiative to ease Sudan Chad tension (ST)
- Monday 30th June official holiday (SUNA)
- US tells Sudan to be like N.Korea, annoys Khartoum (Reuters)
- Sudanese Government refuses G8 threats (Miraya FM)
- 7 killed following crash of Cargo plane near Sudan's Malakal (ST)
- SAF labels SPLA air force plan a violation of CPA (Sudan Vision)
- Rebel attack destabilizes Khartoum authority – Sudan's Turabi (ST)

GoSS

- Sudan's SPLM condemns attacks against its Secretary General (ST)

Darfur

- China deploys more troops in Darfur and transfers others from South Sudan (ST)
- Burkina Faso Minister to be Darfur mediator (Reuters)
- The UN is making a difference in Darfur, OpEd By RODOLPHE ADADA (The Wall Street Journal)

Highlights

[UN/Agencies](#)

[UN chief requests Japanese participation in south Sudan peace mission](#)

(ST) June 28, 2008 (NEW YORK) — U.N. chief Ban Ki Moon has expressed hope that Japanese Self-Defense Force troops (SDF) will participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations in Sudan. 'I would welcome the Self-Defense Forces' participation in the United Nations Mission in Sudan,' the U.N. chief said in a recent meeting with Japanese media ahead of his two-week trip to Japan, South Korea and China beginning Saturday.

SDF troops being dispatched to Sudan would engage in road construction, de-mining and other duties in the war-torn country, government sources said. The Japanese army has superb de-mining techniques and is fully capable of operating in Sudan. Japan is expected to make a final decision on the matter after it sends an advance team to Sudan this summer. Ban said Japan has "capacities and assets" and its participation in the U.N. mission would be "a great contribution" I would hope that Japan, with your very strengthened capacities, will contribute more in very specialized areas like logistics, engineering," the U.N. chief said, noting the UN mission lacks many important critical assets such as ground transportation equipment.

"All in all, it's a good demonstration of your willingness to contribute more for peace and security of the world," Ban said.

[Japan to dispatch GSDF personnel to Sudan](#)

(Japan Today) The Japanese government has decided to send two or three Ground Self-Defense Force personnel to Sudan as early as September to participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations there, informed sources said today Sunday. Tokyo apparently aims to underline its contribution to Africa prior to the Group of Eight summit in July in Hokkaido, at which the issue of support for Africa will be one of the main items on the agenda. The GSDF personnel are expected to engage in information collection and analysis as well as other duties at the U.N. command center in the capital of Sudan, according to the sources.

[UN Assistant Secretary General for Rule of Law visits Sudan](#)

(Al-Ayyam) UN Assistant Secretary General for Rule of Law and Security Institution, Dmitry Titov will arrive in Khartoum tomorrow on an official three-day visit to Sudan. UNMAID Information Officer, Shereen Zorba was quoted as saying that Titov will give lectures on the international law and organize relevant training sessions for the UNAMID personnel and local authorities to help enforce the law and achieve justice in cooperation with authorities.

[GoNU](#)

[Presidents of Sudan, Libya and Chad are likely to meet in Egypt](#)

(Al-Sahafa) Libyan Envoy said his Libyan leader Kaddafi would launch an initiative during the forthcoming days to resolve differences between Sudan and Chad and categorically denied any support by his country to JEM attack on Omdurman.

According to the newspaper Presidents Bashir, Kaddafi and Idriss Deby are likely to hold a meeting on the sidelines of AU summit in Egypt.

Electoral Act will be tabled before the Parliament today

(Al-Intibaha) The National Assembly decided to hold an extraordinary meeting today on the electoral law. The parliament's session supposed to end yesterday was extended until July 9th so that the electoral law is passed. The National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir said it was agreed that the percentage for geographical constituencies would be 60% and 40% for proportional representation.

Sudanese political forces agree to hold general elections in 2009

(ST) June 27, 2008 -The Sudanese political parties agreed today not to delay the general elections that are expected to be held next year in accordance with the CPA. Presidential and parliamentary elections on national and state levels will be held in Sudan before July 2009 after the end of a transitional period, which began in July 2005 when the late former rebel leader John Garang had been appointed as First Vice President, and the Interim Constitution adopted.

In a meeting held at the premises of the National Congress Party (NCP) in Khartoum, the Sudanese political – ruling and opposition — parties agreed on Thursday on the need to hold the general elections across the country at the determined time next year. The Sudanese political forces also agreed on the need to pass the election law by mutual agreement between all the parties without imposing it by the mechanical majority of vote.

A draft election law presented by the NCP proposes to elect 60% of members of the parliaments by the majority election system and 40% by the proportional representation of which 25% must be women. While the SPLM position, which is backed by the opposition forces, is to elect 50% of the MPs through the geographical constituencies and 50% of lawmakers to be elected by proportional representation, women are to be represented by 50% of the proportional representation lists.

The simple-majority single-ballot system favors the big parties and will allow the NCP to have a good number of seats in the national and state parliaments while the representation system is known for being in favour of the small political parties.

The meeting urged to take into account all outstanding issues related to the general elections particularly the resolution of Darfur crisis and to address effects of the war.

The holding of the general elections without the resolution of Darfur crisis seems for many in the interest of the NCP and the SPLM. The exclusion of the rebel movements would increase the chances of the northern Sudan ruling party to have more MPs elected in Darfur. While for the SPLM any delay in the calendar of the CPA implementation could compromise the rest.

JDB decides immediate withdrawal of brigade 31 from Abyei

(**Al-Intibahad**) The JBD decided in its meeting last Thursday the immediate withdrawal of brigade 31 outside Abyei. Abyei Liberation Front leader Omer Al-Ansari told the newspaper that JIUs began training for deployment but Dinka IDPs refused to return under present conditions.

The Presidency to meet by the end of this week

(**Akhbar Al Yom**) According to the member of Abyei Committee Al-Dirdiri Mohamed Ahmed, the Presidency will hold a meeting by the end of this week to complete its consultations with regard to implementation of the roadmap particularly the appointment of Abyei chief administrator and deputy. He has denied any differences between NCP and SPLM over formation of the administration.

Sudan's 1956 North-South border map is non-existent - committee

(**ST**) June 28, 2008 (JUBA) - The Chairperson of the Southern Sudan component of the North-South Border Demarcation Commission, Engineer Riek Dogoal Juer, said the committee charged with the task to demarcate the North-South borderline based on the January 1, 1956 border could not find or trace any map drawn in 1956, during which the country gained its independence from the British colony, that would indicate the border between the two regions.

Engineer Dogoal's technical team briefed the Southern Sudan's Council of Ministers on Friday under the chairmanship of the Vice President, Dr. Riek Machar Teny about the progress and difficulties of the border demarcation process.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed on January 9, 2005 to end the 21 years of North-South war, provides for demarcation of the borderline between the two regions during the interim period based on the 1956 border.

Dogoal explained that the demarcation committee has collected more than three hundred different maps of Sudan from around the world, dating back to colonial era, but could not find any map of 1956.

He further explained that the latest map they found was that of 1953, which only indicates the borders between the present Upper Nile state and White Nile state. He said the committee has been referring to colonial administrative maps drawn before 1956 to help determine where more than 1,000 kilometers long North-South border should be demarcated.

The technical expert added that his team has been consulting with local chiefs and elders inhabiting areas around the border as well as local and state governments with common borders from both north and south, in addition to internal and external sources of information from individual experts and historians.

He said their current stage is to compare all the records and maps they have collected so far and compile the relative information before they could put a preliminary description of the borderline on the paper.

The Council of Ministers, after a four-hour thorough discussion of the issue, resolved to establish a five-member Ministerial Committee to be chaired by the Vice President to work in contact with the technical committee to provide them with political guidance in the next stage of the demarcation process.

Similarly, the experts on the Abyei Boundary Commission could not find or trace any map of 1905 as the source of referral as stipulated in the CPA and instead used the 1965 map, which the NCP rejected, and has now been referred to the international arbitration tribunal in The Hague.

The Southern Sudan government says the North-South border demarcation is very important to correctly determine the redeployment of Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) across the borders, establish political constituencies along the disputed borders before the 2009 general elections and before the referendum on independence in the South in 2011

Iran proposes new initiative to ease Sudan Chad tension

(ST) June 28, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Iranian government presented a proposal to diffuse tension between Sudan and Chad, the official SUNA reported today.

Reda Baggwri the assistant of the Iranian foreign minister met today with the Sudanese foreign minister Deng Alro, on the sidelines of the African Union summit at Sharam al-Sheikh in Egypt.

The Sudanese minister welcomed the move reaffirming that he welcomes such initiative and reiterated his support for similar initiative.

Last week, Sudan urged France to play a role in order to amend the bilateral ties between the two neighbouring countries. France pledged to play a role.

The two countries had signed a non-aggression deal on March in the Senegalese capital, Dakar.

Sudan and Chad agreed last Friday to deploy troops on the border area. Senegal and Libya, both members of a "contact group" following implementation of the Dakar peace deal, had identified 10 sites suitable for border surveillance posts.

Monday 30th June official holiday

Khartoum, June 28 (**SUNA**) - The Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers has announced that Monday, June 30, will be a holiday all over the country on the occasion of the country's celebrations of the anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution. The Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers congratulated all the citizens on the occasion.

US tells Sudan to be like N.Korea, annoys Khartoum

UNITED NATIONS, June 26 (**Reuters**) - U.S. special envoy for Sudan Richard Williamson said on Thursday the Sudanese should follow North Korea's example and

boost their cooperation with the international community, remarks that annoyed Khartoum.

"We call the attention of the government of Sudan to the steps taken by (North Korea) today," Williamson said in a statement, referring to Pyongyang's decision to hand over a long-delayed account of its nuclear activities.

"The government of Sudan can also make this same determination to work with the international community by changing its behavior and working with the United Nations and its partners for the betterment of the people of Sudan."

Sudan's U.N. Ambassador Abdalmahmoud Abdalhaleem rejected Williamson's comparison with the reclusive communist state of North Korea, saying his words were "not helpful at all."

"This statement exposes Mr. Williamson's ignorance," Abdalhaleem told Reuters. "The situations are different. We have a very fruitful engagement with the international community, with the U.N. ... and the Security Council."

Abdalhaleem accused Williamson of undermining the Darfur peace process.

"Interference by people like Williamson will complicate the situation rather than helping it," he said, adding that Sudan's engagement with the international community "has been spoiled by people like Williamson."

Abdalhaleem also said Williamson, a Republican, was trying to make Darfur an election year issue ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November.

Peace talks between Khartoum and Darfur rebels have reached an impasse, U.N. officials reported this week. The negotiations were dealt a serious blow last month when the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attacked a Khartoum suburb.

The government has refused to negotiate with JEM, which it says is backed by Sudan's neighbor Chad, since the attack.

Sudanese Government refuses G8 threats

(Miray FM) June 28, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan rejected threats of additional sanctions by the Group of Eight power if it does not hand over two Sudanese suspected by the International Criminal Court of war crimes in Darfur.

The Group of Eight nations warned on Friday they could take further action against Sudan at the UN Security Council unless it complies with demands to bring Darfur war crimes suspects to justice.

Spokesperson of the Sudanese foreign minister, Ali al-Sadiq said the G8 has to identify the real reasons of Darfur crisis and work to address it, adding such threats would not force Sudan to change its stance over cooperation with the ICC.

Sudan has refused to comply with UN Security Council demands to hand over two suspects to the International Criminal Court who are accused of 51 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity including murder, torture and rape.

The foreign ministers of the industrial powers, at the end of a two-day meeting in Kyoto, an ancient Japanese capital, called for an immediate ceasefire in Darfur, where the United Nations estimates that up to 300,000 people have died since the conflict broke out in 2003.

"We call on all parties concerned to abide by their obligations under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions; we would otherwise support further appropriate action in the UN Security Council," a G8 statement said.

"We urge the government of Sudan and all other parties to participate fully with the International Criminal Court in order to put an end to impunity for the crimes committed in Darfur," said the ministers of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States.

7 killed following crash of Cargo plane near Sudan's Malakal

(ST) June 27, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — A Sudanese cargo plane crashed today near the capital of Upper Nile state, Malakal, killed seven of the crew member. The plane was flying from Khartoum to Juba.

The Antonov An-12 was chartered by Juba Air Cargo Co., a Sudanese firm established in 1996 engaged in carriage and air transport of cargo to southern Sudan, and Juba particularly. The company works for the UN agencies and NGOs.

The plane took off at 5:55 am from Khartoum airport en route to Juba, and crashed after one hour and 10 minutes. The control tower lost contact with the cargo it was informed about the crash by the sole survivor crew, Mohamed Hamza.

The cause of the crash is not clear but Hamza said a thunderstorm hit the Antonov twice before its collapse.

This crash is the third in Sudan since last May.

On June 10, a Sudan Airways A310 carrying 214 people burst into flames after landing at Khartoum international airport, killing at least 30 people.

While on May 2 south Sudan's defense minister and an adviser of the president of southern Sudan government were killed in a plane crash along with 22 other people.

SAF labels SPLA air force plan a violation of CPA

(Sudan Vision) SAF has described a proposal in Southern Sudan's Assembly to provide the SPLA with an air defense force as violation of the CPA.

SAF spokesperson Lt. Col. Al-Sawarmi Khalil was reacting to SPLA white paper bill passed on Monday by the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly. The bill reportedly

sets out a long-term strategy to develop the SPLA into a fighting force capable of fighting in the air and on the sea, not only on land.

Lt. Col. Khalil says the CPA restricts the SPLA to training only until after the referendum, due in 2011. He also says an air force would allow the SPLA to carry out military missions beyond its regional borders, which is not allowed by the CPA.

Rebel attack destabilizes Khartoum authority – Sudan's Turabi

(ST) June 26, 2008 (KHARTOUM) – Hassan Abdellah al-Turabi, the leader of the Islamist opposition Popular Congress Party (PCP) said Darfur rebels destabilized the authority of the Sudanese government when they attacked the capital last month.

Hassan al-Turabi told AFP yesterday that the Justice and Equality Movement attack on May 10 "shows they (ruling party) were in a shock, they were shaken, their authority collapsed," Turabi said. "It shows that anyone can carry a gun and go wherever he likes, take a place, take the capital," he said. "Unfortunately, it's very dangerous for the country."

Al-Turabi, who is accused by the government of links with the rebel JEM, was briefly arrested with other PCP members after the rebel foiled coup. However, his partisans are still in prison. Turabi said the rebels did not want to take the capital and that it was more a show of force. "For six hours the bridges were open but they did not come inside. They just wanted to say 'we can come to the capital'," he said.

Turabi, once a mentor to Beshir but now one of his chief rivals has been jailed several times, accused of plotting to overthrow the regime or having links with JEM. However, the rebel group denies any connection with the PCP and admits that its leader was a former PCP member. He said the international community may not like Bashir, but "they thought it was a stable regime... Now they don't know if it's stable or not."

GoSS

Sudan's SPLM condemns attacks against its Secretary General

(ST) June 28, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The Sudan People's Liberation Movement condemned attacks against its Secretary General because he had described the Sudan as a "failed and corrupt state".

Mandour Al-Mahdi the secretary general of the NCP political bureau described Amum's statements as "irresponsible for an irresponsible minister who is trying to create a split between the SPLM and NCP".

The SPLM leadership in Khartoum discussed in a meeting led by the first Vice president the attacks against Pagan Amum and calls to relieve him after his participation in a public meeting organized by Ajas al Huryia.

In a statement signed by the head of SPLM northern sector, Yasir Arman said the attack is not directed against the SPLM due to its position towards the full respect of

press freedom. The SPLM also urged its partner not to waste its time in such futile matters.

[Darfur](#)

[China deploys more troops in Darfur and transfers others from South Sudan](#)

(ST) June 27, 2008— China announced today the deployment of the second batch of peacekeepers to Darfur by mid-July. Beijing also announced the temporary transfer of its troops in south Sudan to Darfur.

China a close ally to the Sudanese government agreed to send a 315-member engineering unit to Darfur, the first group of 143 engineers had already been dispatched to Darfur since November 2007. The Chinese engineers are to build roads and bridges, and dig wells, and have also brought a medical team.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Liu Jianchao said today that China would deploy its follow-up troops next month. "According to the UN arrangement on the transportation of materials and equipment, China will deploy its follow-up troops in the region by mid-July." Jianchao said. The spokesperson also announced the temporary transfer of some of its troops and facilities stationed in the UN mission in South Sudan to Darfur, helping the engineer troops in Darfur with construction of camps and roads.

Chinese troops, located in Western Bahr el Ghazal State, are supposed to be 435 officers and soldiers in total, has 275 engineers, 100 transport troops and 60 medical staff. China is also ready to send well diggers and relevant equipment to Darfur to solve the water shortage facing the hybrid forces, the Chinese official said.

He also reiterated China's concern about the situation in Darfur saying that his country supported the dual-track strategy that promotes the deployment of peacekeeping mission and political negotiation in a balanced way in order to solve the Darfur issue politically. He further reaffirmed the willing of Beijing to work with the international community and continue, "To make our contribution for the early realization of peace, stability and development in Darfur."

[Burkina Faso Minister to be Darfur mediator](#)

(Reuters) June 27, 2008— Burkina Faso Foreign Minister Djibril Bassole has been chosen as the new U.N. and African Union joint chief mediator for Darfur, though his appointment has yet to be confirmed, diplomats said Friday.

Djibril Bassole Several diplomats told Reuters the United Nations and AU had settled on Bassole as the best choice to try to broker a resolution to the five-year-old conflict in Sudan's western region of Darfur. "Bassole has been chosen," said one diplomat. "Now the question is whether everyone involved will give their final agreement."

The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity because the appointment is not yet official. They said it was still possible that Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir could object to Bassole's appointment. However, they said the AU was expected to

endorse Bassole as the mediator at its foreign ministers meeting now under way in the Egyptian Red Sea town of Sharm el-Sheikh.

If confirmed, Bassole will replace the dual negotiating team of AU special envoy for Darfur Salim Ahmed Salim and his counterpart at the United Nations, Jan Eliasson. Burkina Faso helped mediate talks between the government and rebels in Ivory Coast's civil war and Bassole was actively involved.

Diplomats on the U.N. Security Council have said there is wide agreement that the idea of having two mediators going in and out of Darfur has not been an effective way of getting the Sudanese government and Darfur rebels to make peace. The appointment of a single U.N.-AU mediator permanently based in Darfur is long overdue, they said.

The UN is making a difference in Darfur, OpEd By RODOLPHE ADADA (the Wall Street Journal)

June 25, 2008; Page A13

A delegation from the United Nations Security Council recently witnessed the challenges facing the African Union/U.N. operation in Darfur (Unamid).

We are missing forces and the equipment needed to sustain them. Our mandated strength is 26,000, yet six months into our deployment we stand at less than 10,000. We are working to build the infrastructure needed to cope with our increasing troop strength. Our plan is ambitious: We aim to have deployed 80% of our forces by the end of the year.

We are not sitting on our hands waiting for the troops and material to arrive. I am proud of my peacekeeping forces who risk their lives daily to fulfill our mandate to protect civilians, improve security, facilitate humanitarian aid, and engage the parties to this conflict.

Every day our blue-helmeted peacekeepers carry out patrols right across Darfur, an area the size of Texas. They defend thousands of innocent Darfurians, such as women from the camps gathering firewood to cook meals for their families. One of the most disgusting aspects of this conflict has been the widespread rape of women by armed thugs on all sides. Unamid is carrying out more and more night patrols to increase this protection around the clock.

Critics say we are hunkered down, yet the facts speak for themselves: In January, when our mission began, we carried out 271 patrols. Last month, it was 644, or more than 20 a day.

Our peacekeepers intervene on a daily basis across the length and breadth of Darfur to calm tensions arising from cattle losses, water distribution and land ownership – issues at the heart of the conflict. These missions are critical, successful and welcomed by Darfurians, but they do not make international headlines.

Some of our more impassioned critics call on us to intervene more forcefully. I would remind them that Unamid is a peacekeeping force. We are here to keep a peace that

doesn't exist. It is the duty of the belligerents – and there are many – to make peace. As Gen. Martin Luther Agwai, our force commander, stated recently, even if we were at full deployment our peacekeepers are not here to stand between rival armies and militias engaged in full-scale combat.

The rebel movements have fractured into ever greater numbers. The peace process has stalled, and the parties still demonstrate a greater readiness to settle their disputes with guns than around the negotiating table. Whatever anyone tells you, there is no simple solution to Darfur. Still, we are engaging all parties. The imminent appointment of a new mediator will give renewed vigor to this process.

The word Darfur may conjure up uniform images of misery and insecurity. In fact, it's a patchwork of different situations. There are many areas, such as swaths of North Darfur, which are relatively secure. We are determined to reinforce these gains. In other locations, such as parts of South Darfur, lawlessness and violence remain the order of the day, and we are acting there to calm tensions. Finally, there are some areas, particularly in West Darfur close to the Chad border, that are conflict zones. Here we continue to protect civilians and engage all parties.

In addition to helping to end the suffering of the last five years, Unamid represents a giant step forward for the African Union on the international stage, and an expression of the desire for African solutions for African problems. It is the first time the AU has partnered with the U.N. in what is destined to be the largest peacekeeping operation in the world. It cannot afford to fail. As I stressed to the Security Council members during their visit, patience is running thin here and local trust – essential for our mission to succeed – is on the line.

We will work to empower civil society, because the best hopes for peace lie with the traditional tribal leadership. We will expect the government in Khartoum to honor its responsibilities to protect all the citizens of Sudan, and to cooperate fully with Unamid. We will engage the movements, pushing them to commit to a peaceful settlement. Finally, we will encourage the international community to demonstrate equal resolve.

Together we can make a difference to the millions of ordinary, peace-seeking Darfurians. Here on the ground we have the resolution to succeed.

Mr. Adada, a former foreign minister of the Republic of Congo, is the Joint Special Representative of Unamid.

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