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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS :

UN/ Agencies

WFP disposes of food

(*Khartoum Monitor*) A press release issued by the WFP yesterday discloses that the organization has disposed of food items it estimates at less than 0.01% of the total food distributed last year.

The food was damaged during transport from Port Sudan and was disposed of in the presence of a disposal committee made up of representatives of the WFP, the Ministry of Health, the HAC, the Environmental Department and Police observers.

Arab militia attacks continue to claim lives in Darfur, UNMIS News Bulletin

(*Khartoum Monitor*) The *Khartoum Monitor* quotes an UNMIS News Bulletin report that Arab militias are continuing to claim lives in Darfur.

the reported is quoted as saying that three people were killed and one wounded when Arab militiamen attacked on 18 March the village of Aro Sharo and looted cattle. It goes on to say that the situation remains tense as the Targems are out to recover looted livestock.

Ansar Affairs Council to send memo to the UN next Sunday

(*AlAyaam*) The Ansar Affairs Council is to send a memo next at 11:00a.m. next Sunday calling for a trial of people implicated in the Gezeera Abba, Wad Nubawi and Kurmuk.

The Deputy Secretary-General of the Ansar Affairs Council said that they will request a trial of all those implicated in these massacres carried out during the reign of former President Jaafar Mohamed Nimeri.

The Transition Debate

Government rejects Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's statements and the calls for sanctions

(*AlAyaam*) The Sudan government has criticised recent statements by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in which he expressed intentions to ask envoys Eliasson and Salim to travel to Sudan to exert pressures on the Sudanese leader to accept a joint African Union-UN force in Darfur and will ask Nigeria's President Obasanjo on a similar mission.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Ambassador Ali el-Sadig said that the Secretary-General should have sent a memo to the government on this issue instead of going public to the press.

The Sudan government points out that the mission of envoys Salim and Eliasson is only confined to attempts to rejuvenate political talks for a solution to the Darfur crisis.

UN won't take rejection to peacekeeper Ops in Darfur - official

(SudanTribune.com) The U.N. will never accept a rejection from Sudan's president to a strong peacekeeping operation in Darfur, because the conflict is hurting millions of people in Sudan as well as neighbouring Chad, the Central African Republic and even Cameroon, the U.N. peacekeeping chief said Monday.

Jean-Marie Guehenno told reporters after briefing the U.N. Security Council on President Omar al-Bashir's rejection of all but a very limited role for the U.N. in supporting African Union troops in Darfur that he was pessimistic about a quick solution, though a beefed-up peacekeeping force is desperately needed.

"We'll never take any reaction as a rejection," Guehenno said. "We can't afford that and the people in Darfur can't afford that... We are prepared to clarify any detail in what is on offer.

"We believe it is a very coherent, solid, credible package that has only one purpose - that is to help the people there," he said [[click on the link for the full text UN won't take rejection to peacekeeper Ops in Darfur - official](#)].

France threatens Sudan with sanctions

(SudanTribune.com) French President Jacques Chirac on Tuesday threatened Sudan with sanctions if the "crimes against humanity" in the war-torn region of Darfur continued.

"I say solemnly: if the attacks continue, if agreements are not respected, the (United Nations) Security Council will have no other choice but to adopt sanctions. We are already working on it," he said in a message read out during a meeting organised by French group Urgence Darfur in Paris.

"And everything must be done to ensure the UN and African Union forces can be deployed to Darfur," he added in the message made public by his office.

Southern Sudan Defence Forces warns all parties against supporting deployment of foreign troops

(Sudan Vision) In a statement issued by its commander Gordon Kouang, the Southern Sudan Defence Forces says it is opposed to the prosecution of any Sudanese national abroad under whatever circumstances.

The statement further warned all political parties without exception against supporting the deployment of foreign troops in Darfur and warned the armed groups of Darfur against carrying out any acts of sabotage inside the capital. It warns that any group harbouring such thoughts would "pay a high price."

CPA

Abyei and OAGs dominate meeting of the Presidency next Saturday

(*AlSudani*) A meeting of the Presidency of the Republic to be held next Saturday will have as its main features the issues of Abyei and the OAGs, sources report.

Also expected to feature is the issue of the ICC summons to state minister Ahmed Haroun and Mr. Ali Khousesheib.

Sources expect the parties to resolve the issue of Abyei in this forthcoming meeting but Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Atim Garang (SPLM) says resolving the Abyei issue is contingent on the National Congress Party's acknowledgement of the ABC experts report.

Governor of Blue Nile State says deployment of JIUs well under way

(*AlIntibaha*) The Parties to the CPA in Blue Nile State have declared that the security situation in the state is calm and that they continue to gain progress in implementation of the CPA.

Blue Nile State Governor Abdelrahman Abu-Madyan told a press conference in el-Damazin yesterday that the parties have concluded deployment of the JIUs in 5 out of 8 sites and expect to reach full deployment by next week.

The governor also said de-mining operations have progressed well. He took the opportunity to express thanks and appreciation for the cooperation given by the UN agencies to the regional government in a number of areas.

On the other hand, the advisor to the Governor of Blue Nile State on NGO affairs admits that returns operations are facing a number of obstacles. He points out that they have managed to repatriate only 2,000 from a total of 31,000 refugees who have shown willingness to return. He blames these mainly on landmines.

GoNU

Salva Kiir in N'Djamena

(*AlRai AlAam*) VP Kiir held talks in N'Djamena yesterday with Ahmed Ibrahim Direij, the head of the Federal Alliance, but failed to meet the other non-signatories to the DPA.

The two sides agreed that a comprehensive meeting on Darfur take place in Juba probably sometime next month, reports GoSS Minister for Presidential Affairs, Luka Biong. Direij, he adds, has promised that the non-signatories will attend the Juba meet as a united block.

Sudan donors meet begins, Darfur to dominate

(*SudanTribune.com*) Donors began meeting on Tuesday to pledge money to rebuild Sudan after a devastating north-south civil war, but the event was overshadowed by the separate conflict in Darfur being left off the agenda.

The government refused to allow Darfur to be on the agenda and at the last minute cancelled a compromise meeting to be held separately on Monday, U.N. officials and diplomats said.

The meeting — dubbed the Sudan Consortium — had hoped to address that issue, in addition to getting the original pledges renewed and securing fresh promises of cash.

But the cancellation of the Darfur meeting meant some donors withdrew high-level participation.

"While it is unfortunate that the government has chosen to cancel today's meeting on Darfur humanitarian access issues, the path to resolving these concerns remains clear," said a U.S. statement released at the opening ceremony late on Monday night.

Sudanese Humanitarian Affairs Minister Kosti Manyebi said the government was worried the Sudan Consortium would be "hijacked" by Darfur's political issues and had requested it be postponed until after the donor meeting but is happy to address it after the Sudan Consortium.

The meeting will travel to south Sudan's capital Juba on Wednesday [*click on the link for the full text Sudan donors meet begins, Darfur to dominate*].

Trial begins in Khartoum of terrorist cell

(*AlAyaam et al*) The trial has began yesterday in Khartoum of an alleged terrorist cell that was plotting to strike western interests in the country.

The state persecutor for national security said that authorities have arrested a Tunisian national following a tip-off on the terrorist cell.

Preliminary hearings took place yesterday in which the Tunisian national admitted to having been asked by another one of the suspects to participate in a plot to bomb western interests in the country but turned down the request. But the plaintiff (a National Security Officer) pointed out that the defendant was well in the know of the plots.

Quoting the *Sudan Media Center*, *AlSahafa* daily says that the cell consists of 3 foreigners of Arab origin and one Sudanese national who was arrested and tried by the courts in September 2004 [*it is not clear from the press reports whether the arrest and trial of the Sudanese were related to the terrorist cell*]. The other two, reports *AlSahafa* are currently in jail in their respective countries.

Only the Tunisian, therefore, who was still at large, is to face trial.

Armed Darfur groups plot to use transistor explosive devices

(*AlHayat*) *AlHayat* reports that information received from sources intimate that some armed groups from Darfur are planning to use TNT-laden transistor radio sets to carry out explosions in the capital.

The sources elaborate that elements of these groups have been noticed purchasing large quantities of radio sets for the purpose.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS/SPLM

Pagan Amoum suspended; Martin Malwal arrested

(*AlIntibaha; Alwan*) Informed sources reporting from Juba say SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amoum has been suspended of his duties and Malik Aggar assumes his duties pending investigations on graft allegations involving \$60 million received by the SPLM during the Pre-Interim Period. The decision to suspend the SPLM's Secretary-General was based on recommendations from the investigation committee.

Also in connection to the controversy surrounding the fate of the \$60 million, reports say that the SPLM arrested in Juba yesterday Mr. Martin Malwal who had been summoned recently from Khartoum, reports *Alwan* daily.

Sources from Juba also report that the town was tense yesterday following reports that SPLA Deputy Chief-of-Staff Isaac Mamur had refused to hand himself over to a committee formed to investigate on allegations that he had imported weapons without the knowledge of the SPLM/A and that he was supervising military training in camps without knowledge of the SPLA and had abused his office by making secret contacts with other armed factions.

Isaac is said to have fortified himself with loyal officers as Juba held its breath in anticipation of armed clashes with the group sent to bring him in before Paulino Matip managed to intervene and convince him to hand himself over so that investigations could take their course.

Salva Kiir urges South Sudan army to remain committed to its mission

(*Khartoum Monitor/SudanTribune.com*) First vice-president of the republic and president of the Government of Sudan (GoSS) and commander-in-chief of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, has urged the SPLA to remember their mission. He made the remark during the closing ceremony of the four-day Second Command and Staff Conference held over the weekend in Juba.

The Khartoum Monitor reported that Salva Kiir said "Besides defence of the people of southern Sudan and the marginalized Sudanese community, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) has transformed you into recognized regular army," He also said the SPLA must be kept to focus on the mission and remain alert.

The GoSS president stressed the importance of self-discipline and respect for guests and foreigners in our country. "Any army without discipline can cause havoc in our markets," he said. He ordered that SPLA soldiers should be removed from the streets.

Gen Kiir also ordered all illegal roadblocks to be cleared so that the culprits can be identified. "People who are doing this here, they must be stopped." he said.

Earlier, the GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar Teny Dhurgon said the SPLA is the army of the oppressed people and that since oppression is always the most difficult to overcome, the SPLA must be on full alert.

"We would have no excuse to tell the Sudanese people if the year ends, we fail to organize the SPLA because the security budget has been increased to over 40 per cent," Machar explained.

Riek Machar also stressed the importance of reorganizing and reforming the security sector. "It is easy to establish a SPLA bank provided that the necessary infrastructure is available," he said.

The SPLA chief of Staff, Oyai Deng Ajak, stressed the necessity of discipline, respect and cooperation. He urged the army to respect the chain of discipline and unity of command in order not to fail the marginalized people of the Sudan and the people of southern Sudan.

Some armed elements trench SPLA reputation – official

(SudanTribune.com) The speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, James Wani Igga, denounced some armed elements which, in the name of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), commit violence against civilians. He said these people may ruin the reputation of the SPLA and spoil its chances in the upcoming elections, *SRS* reports.

Addressing a political rally in Juba last week, James Wani Igga alleged that there are armed elements and civilians, pretending to be SPLA soldiers, who may harass and intimidate citizens during the run up to elections.

Igga said SPLA soldiers must be trained on how to relate to civilians so they can "promote" the image of the party. Whether SPLA soldiers will be encouraged to actively campaign for the SPLM in upcoming elections, action that would surely be opposed by other political parties in Sudan and could be a violation of the CPA, was not clear in Mr. Igga's remarks.

He also encouraged people who have still not joined the SPLM to do so. He particularly encouraged young people to join, calling the SPLM the "party of the future."

Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement

Presidential Advisor agrees GoNU has no strategy on Darfur crisis

(*AlAyaam*) Presidential Advisor Mustapha Osman Ismail concedes the GoNU has no clear strategy for solutions to the Darfur crisis and stressed the need to focus on the Darfur crisis which he described as the major threat to peace in the country.

Dr. Mustapha said in answer to a question from members in the States' Assembly on progress in the three peace agreements that the government should not ignore two basic issues as it seeks to resolve the Darfur crisis. One of these, he said, is the realisation of justice and the second is that it should pursue more mechanisms to win the trust of the people.

He also said that the government seeks to resolve the Darfur crisis through three avenues: resolve the situation with the neighbouring states, reaching a settlement with the non-signatories and resolving the situation on the ground. He pointed out that the government has a weak sense of the importance of time and should draw a timeframe for these processes.

Work brought to a standstill at new Geneina airport

(*AlWatan*) Two transport trucks were robbed about 11 kms. from the site of the new airport in el-Geneina.

The Minister for Urban Planning in W. Darfur blamed rebel groups for this act that he said has brought a standstill to construction of the new airport located about 16 kms. from Geneina town.

Hundreds of Chadian refugees taken to U.N. camp in Darfur

(*SudanTribune.com*) More than 200 Chadians, forced to flee to neighbouring Darfur because of violence in their own country, have been moved to a camp further inside the volatile Sudanese region, the U.N. refugee agency said Tuesday.

Ron Redmond, a spokesman for U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres, said the agency was preparing for a further flight of civilians away from the lawless border between Chad and Darfur.

Some 20,000 Chadians already have crossed to Darfur since the end of 2005, UNHCR said. The migration has occurred despite unabated violence and human rights abuses committed in Darfur by government-backed janjaweed militias and rebels. More than 200,000 people have died and 2.5 million have been displaced by four years of fighting in Darfur.

"The high commissioner has been warning for months about the spreading insecurity throughout that region, with Darfur as the epicenter, affecting eastern Chad and the Central African Republic to the south," Redmond told The Associated Press [*click on the link for the full story* [Hundreds of Chadian refugees taken to U.N. camp in Darfur](#)].

US says Sudan's Bashir is "misguided"

(*SudanTribune.com*) The United States on Tuesday called Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir "misguided" after he denied his government was involved in human rights abuses in Darfur.

"It just bears no resemblance to reality," said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack when asked to comment on an interview Bashir gave to a U.S. television network.

In the NBC interview aired on Monday, Bashir was shown a picture of a U.S. State Department map depicting burned villages in Sudan's vast western region. He called the picture a "fabrication" and also denied rape was a problem in Darfur.

"People have been killed because there is war. It is not in the Sudanese culture or people of Darfur to rape. It doesn't exist. We don't have it," Bashir said.

Bashir likened the photograph to pictures shown by former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell at the U.N. Security Council before the start of the Iraq war as proof of the presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. No such weapons have been found since the war started four years ago.

McCormack said U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had visited a camp for displaced people in Darfur and heard the stories of rape and brutality herself.

"The world is not going to stand by and watch the continued humanitarian suffering ... because the Sudanese government has refused to cooperate with the deployment of A.U./U.N. expanded forces," said McCormack [[follow the link for the full text US says Sudan's Bashir is "misguided"](#)].

Other Headlines:

- Pentagon to establish 80,000-strong US military base in north-eastern Chad, reports *Rai AlShaab* daily.

Reactions to the ICC Summons

SLM-MM confirms UNHRC committee findings

(*The Citizen*) SLM-MM affirms that the UNHRC report compiled by the committee led by Jody Williams depending in its report on reliable witnesses who lived through the crisis from its beginning.

The movement's political advisors, Abdulla Khamis, says that his movement disagrees with President Bashir's claim in an interview with US-based NBC channel that the HRC was biased and depended on false witnesses in compiling its report. H said it would be better for the National Congress Party not to continue to deceive people and give the actual number of victims in "the most terrible genocide in human history".