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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

UN/ Agencies

UN and African Union envoys visit Darfur

(*AlAyaam et al*) Envoys Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim travelled to Darfur yesterday where they held talks separately with representatives of the Sudan government, the AMIS and commanders of non-signatory groups.

A separate Special Media Monitoring report is attached.

United Nations rights team cancels Darfur visit over visa row

(*AlSudani et al*) A UNHRC delegation awaiting entry visas from the Sudan government has decided it can not wait indefinitely and cancelled the visit.

The delegation was already in Addis Ababa awaiting entry visas which the Sudan government declined to grant on the grounds that a member of that team is persona non grata.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Ali el-Sadiq has expressed disappointment over the decision by the rights delegation to cancel its trip and the SPLA has expressed its dissatisfaction for the government's decision over which, it adds, it was not consulted.

A separate Special Media Monitoring Report is attached.

IOM to repatriate IDPs to South Kordofan

(*AlSahafa*) IOM says it will be running during this month a number of repatriation missions to South Kordofan and Unity States. It says it expects to run these repatriation trips at the rate of convoys every three days.

A representative for the director of the organisation said that about 300,000 people have been registered to go back and that the operation is being carried out in coordination with the GoNU, the GoSS and UNMIS.

NCP accuses INGOs operating in Darfur of spying

(*AlWihda*) The Deputy Chairman of the National Congress Party has accused foreign agencies working in Darfur of spying and "pursuing other agendas".

Professor Ibrahim Ahmed Omar told a press conference in Cairo that the government will impose new measures to regulate and facilitate the work of these agencies and ease the plight of the people in Darfur.

GoNU

Weapons cache uncovered in Sudan University

(*AlSudani*) Authorities uncovered yesterday large quantities of ready-for-use “Molotov cocktails” and knives at the north-eastern edges of the Sudan University campus.

The press office at police headquarters meanwhile reports that 10 students have been arrested on suspicion of involvement in acts of destruction in the campus.

Criminal court set up for journalist murder trial

(*SMC via BBC Monitoring, 14 February*) Head of the supreme court Haydhar Ahmad Dafa'allah has issued a resolution ordering the formation of a criminal court to try accusers said to have [been] involved in the murder of editor in chief of Al-Wifaq daily.

The court will be chaired by judge Usamah Uthman.

SMC learnt that 17 accusers will be present before the court facing charges under article (21)(24) (26) (126) (162) (130) of the criminal law for 1991. The court will be held under tightened security measures, authorities said.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS/ SPLM

South Sudan gets \$250m loan for development from Emirates

(*ST*) South Sudan has got a loan from the Emirates Bank to finance development projects and regional infrastructure, South Sudan minister of finance said.

Minister of Finance and Economic Planning in the government of Southern Sudan, Arthur Akuien Chol, has signed last week in Dubai an agreement with Emirates Bank to finance development project in southern Sudan within the limit of 250 million US dollar.

Chol told Akhar al-Youm daily that the conclusion of this deal comes as result of previous contact with Emirati State Minister of Finances and Industry Mohamed Khalfan bin Kharbash.

He further said most of these projects are dedicated to the construction of road, services, schools and hospitals. He added that there are plans adopted by the different ministries and the southern Sudan government now will fix the priorities.

Many of development projects drafted by a joint assessment mission – from SPLM, NCP and donors - have been delayed by the World Bank, which is responsible of the money pledged for South Sudan development according to Oslo conference.

Several Arab countries which participated at this conference declined to participate in Oslo fund. They committed themselves to finance directly development projects in northern and southern Sudan in accord with the concerned authorities in the national unity government and southern Sudan government.

Uganda's LRA denies attacks in Sudan's Western Equatoria

(ST) The Ugandan rebels denied reports that their forces had attacked Western Equatoria population. Instead they said that LRA troops were in reconnaissance patrols near the DRC border.

The rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) said in a press release that its troops in Western Equatoria State operated in reconnaissance along Sudan Republic of Democratic Republic of Congo.

The LRA denounced a hostile campaign in the media organized by the Ugandan authorities "to cause panic and terror within the civilian population in both Western and Eastern Equatoria States in Southern Sudan."

Sudan's Lakes State government denies reports of new dress code

(ST) Lake State minister of Information, Culture, Youth and Sport denied reports today that there was a new dress code policy to be enforced.

Mrs. Adak Costa the State minister told Sudan Tribune that news that Lakes State has decided to enforce a new dress code published in Juba post and reprinted by ST were "wrong information". She mentioned that recent arrests of some people in the area were not related to the dress code but to other offenses committed.

She further said that contact with the UN staff at the ministerial level in the state are based on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, "there is nothing that we hold talk for outstanding issue like bicycles seized out from local UN security."

Last week Juba Post reported that the Lake State government has detained some UNICEF staff member for wearing "inappropriate" clothes.

Darfur/ DPA

SLA-Minnawi clash with police in Nyala and detain police officer

(AIRai AIAam; AISudani) Members of the Minnawi faction of the SLA detained yesterday a police officer in South Darfur in retaliation to the arrest by police of one of their accused of participating in recent clashes in Gereida.

South Darfur health minister Yahia Hassan criticised the manner in which the police came to arrest the SLA member. He points out that the SLA had retaliated by arresting the police officer and holding him hostage to the release of their colleague.

The SLA is said to have threatened to blow up the government building and tensions were so high that political leaders from the two sides had to come in to intervene.

Minnawi arrived on a scheduled meeting to Nyala when the town was still tense.

He and his delegation refused to talk to the press and went straight with the governor to a meeting which span only half an hour.

The two sides refused to comment to the press after the meeting.

AU to send fact-finding mission to Sudan

(AlMashaheer via BBC Monitoring, 14 February) The AU Peace and Security Council yesterday said it would send a fact-finding mission to Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic in a bid to resolve the crisis in the region.

In a press conference, Gabonese ambassador to Ethiopia and AU council's chairman Emmanuel Issoze-Ngondet, said the resolution was to send a fact-finding mission to those three countries to verify the information it gathered last year.

He pointed out that the AU mission's mandate still had to be determined, as well as its format, the dates of the visit and its agenda. "The mission would also try to encourage the Chadian government to enter into dialogue with the rebels to try to understand the true causes of the conflict," he added. "The council also discussed the issue of sending a peacekeeping force, in accordance with a request to the UN, to help resolve the crisis and restore security on the borders between Chad, Sudan and the Central African Republic, he said. [Passage omitted]

ICC to open charges on perpetrators of Darfur crimes

(AlSudani) A press officer at the ICC intimates that the chief prosecutor will before the end of this month formally file charges against persons implicated in crimes in Darfur.

The press officer said that the crimes include murder, torture, rape, harassment, destruction of property and forceful relocation.