



Monthly Edition.

Embassy of the Republic of Sudan in Berlin / Germany
The most important events and developments during the month of June.

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President Al-Bashir renews Sudan endeavors to find a solution to the gulf crisis as soon as possible



The President of the Republic Omar Bashir reaffirmed that Sudan would continue to exert efforts for reinvigoration of the diplomatic and political efforts seeking to find a solution the gulf crisis soonest possible, and to restore things to normalcy in the region and the gulf area in particular.

The president said he would work to avert the region from sliding into negative trend of dire consequences to the whole region.

The president made the remark upon receiving at the Guests House in Khartoum, the Qatari State Minister for Foreign Af-

fairs, Sultan Bin Saad Al Mirikhi, currently on visit to the country.

Hamid Mumtaz, the state Minister for Foreign Affairs, has pointed out following the meeting between President Bashir and the visiting Qatari official, that the meeting also underlined the need to work for an Arab internal solution for the gulf crisis that could impact the Arab House and weaken the Arab body, thus opening the doors for more crisis if it continues.

Mumtaz said the president has stressed that he would work to support the Kuwaiti initiative and voiced his confidence in the Arab leaders to find a political and diplomatic solution through dialogue that would put an end to the crisis.

He said the Qatari official has welcomed any resolution that would be based on dialogue and on diplomatic solutions.

Sudan Allocates 2,4 Million Feddans for Largest Agricultural Scheme

The Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir has issued a presidential decree to allocate 2,4 million feddans of land in the River Nile State for a national agricultural scheme. Sudan has 175 million feddans of arable land, 118 million feddans of natural grassland nature and 102 million head of livestock. The feddan is a unit of area equivalent to 1.038 acres (0.42 ha). The proposed scheme at Wadi Al-Hawad valley, which extends from the eastern plains of Al-Butana to the River Nile State, would

be the largest agricultural scheme in Africa under one management. In 2015, Sudan's National Investment Authority (NIA) said Al Dhahirah Agricultural Holding



Company, a leading farming and animal production company from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has expressed its desire to invest \$10 billion in the Wadi Al-Hawad project. According to the presidential decree, the Wadi Al-Hawad project, which has been described as "national project for integrated development", would be ad-

Minister of Defence Receives American Military Attache to Khartoum



The Minister of Defence, Lt. Gen. Awad Mohamed Ibin Oaf, has affirmed Sudan keenness to enhance its relations and to exchange interests with all countries, indicating that Sudan attaches a special concern to the strengthening of its relations with the United States.

This came when the Minister of Defence received in his office the American Military Attache to Khartoum, Jorn Bong. Who informed the minister on the outcome of his visits to a number of Sudanese states, especially in Darfur, to get acquainted closely with the situation there.

He appreciated the level of cooperation and the facilities given to him in carrying out his mission.

The meeting has discussed issues of mutual concern and the efforts being exerted at the level of the Sudanese - American dialogue and the issues of cooperation between Sudan and the United States.

ministered at the federal level. The presidential decree provided to enact a law determining the purpose of the project, how it would be administered and how its revenues would be distributed. It also prohibits infringement on the rights of the existing landowners within the boundaries of the project, detailing ways to engage them in investment partnerships and how their revenues would be determined. During the meetings of the 3rd Arab Economic and Social Development Summit in Riyadh in 2013, al-Bashir launched an initiative to achieve Arab food security through offering investment opportunities in agriculture and livestock in Sudan.

Sudan boosts border patrols to curb people smuggling

Al-Laffa – It was Efrem Desta's yearning for freedom that made him flee his home country of Eritrea and enter Sudan illegally, hoping that he could later make it to Europe. But he and a group of fellow migrants were abducted by Sudanese Bedouin tribesmen after they crossed into east Sudan near Al-Laffa village. "We fled Eritrea because we wanted freedom, but when we got here we were captured by Rashaida," said Desta, 20, speaking in his native Tigriya language. "After five days in captivity, we were rescued." Sudanese security forces, who have stepped up their patrols along the 600km frontier with Eritrea in a bid to curb migrant smuggling, freed the group. They were found handcuffed and in chains, security officers said, and have now joined nearly 30 000 other refugees in Wadi Sherifay camp, a vast conglomerate of thatched huts and dusty tracks near the border. Most of the rescued Eritreans say they fled their country to escape military conscription, but some do admit leaving to seek better jobs abroad. Sudanese police and agents of the powerful National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) say dozens of Eritreans try to enter Sudan illegally every day. "There are many ways they enter, including walking along the river Gash," one security officer told an AFP correspondent who toured border areas of Kasala state at the beginning of May. The migrants cross into Sudan on foot after walking for days or in some cases even weeks. Key transit point "They usually travel at night and hide out during the day in farms, plantations and forests," the officer said, pointing to a patch of trees lining the dry riverbed. Although Syrians fleeing their brutal civil war fuel the current migration crisis, experts say there are also many Eritreans trying to reach Europe. "An estimated 100 000 migrants travelled across Sudan in 2016, the bulk of them being Eritreans," said Asfand Waqar, analyst at the International Organization of Migration (IOM). Sudan, in the Horn of Africa, is a key transit point on the migrant route to Europe. From Kasala the Eritreans travel across Sudan to Libya or Egypt. Smugglers then cram them aboard rickety



boats for perilous Mediterranean voyages aimed at reaching landfall in Europe. In summer, the long windswept cross-border Gash riverbed comes alive at night with the march of migrants. "We still don't do night patrols, so it's easy for them to move during the hours of darkness," the security officer said. Behind him under the scorching midday sun, a group of machinegun-toting border guards crossed the riverbed in pick-up trucks to begin a patrol. Officers say that their boosted presence along the border had also helped them catch several people smugglers. "The smugglers, who are

mostly Eritrean, have excellent networks and high-tech communications gear," another security officer said. "They know more about us than we know about them." Big business Migrant smuggling has become a multi-billion-dollar business, experts say. "It's the financial capability of a

migrant that determines how much he would be charged. It's an exploitative system," said Waqar, with the cost ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars. An Eritrean woman planning to travel to Europe from Khartoum said she was told to raise \$2 500. Kasala police chief General Yahya Sulayman said Sudan alone cannot stop the smuggling of people along the "long and complicated" border. "We need international help, hi-tech communication equipment, vehicles, cameras and even drones to monitor the border," he told AFP. Washington-based think tank Enough Project says the European Union paid Khartoum millions of euros to buy equipment that would help stem the migrant flow. Some funding also went to the Rapid Support Force (RSF), a paramilitary group fighting rebels in war-torn Darfur, and whose members are also used for border patrols, the think tank said. General Sulayman denied that any RSF members were deployed along the Sudan-Eritrea border. "The border patrols are carried out by police, NISS and Sudanese armed forces," he said. "All these troops are jointly fighting organised cross-border crime." Eritreans in camps such as Wadi Sherifay say they live in a constant state of fear. "The Eritrean military has its agents everywhere. They can catch us and take us back," said one who still dreams of reaching Europe.

Britain Praises Sudan's Role in Combating Terrorism

British Ambassador to Khartoum



Michael Aaron praised Sudan's pivotal role in the fight against illegal immigration, terrorism and extremism and its contribution to tackling many crises in the region, particularly in south Sudan and Libya.

During his meeting with the Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary, Ambassador Abdul Ghani Al-Naeem, he affirmed his country's commitment to what was agreed on the development of bilateral relations in the political, economic, cultural and scientific fields. He added "The meeting comes as part of the follow-up to the implementation of the third round of the strategic dialogue held recently in Khartoum", the Ambassador told the foreign U. minister about his participation in the economic seminar organized in London at the British Chamber of Commerce. Aaron revealed that he addressed British companies and urges them to develop trade and investment cooperation with Sudan. Al-Naeem pointed out the areas of cooperation and coordination is capable to make a quantum leap in the level of relations between the two countries.

Sudan, U.S., Norway discuss progress on five-track engagement, South Sudan crisis



A tripartite meeting between Sudan, United States and Norway Monday has discussed the Sudanese-American relations and the situation in South Sudan, said Sudan's Foreign Ministry. In a press release, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Gharib Allah Khidir said Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour has met in Oslo with the rep-

resentative of the Office of the U.S. Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, Paul Steven and the Norwegian Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan Erling Skojonsberg. According to Khidir, the meeting discussed "the course of Sudan-US relations regarding the five-track engagement between the two sides besides some regional issues, especially the situation South Sudan".

Meanwhile, Ghandour on Monday has discussed with his Norwegian counterpart Borge Brende ways to promote bilateral ties between the two countries in the various fields.

According to Khidir, the meeting also discussed regional and international challenges besides the internal developments in Sudan.

He added that Ghandour invited Brende to visit Khartoum, saying the latter has accepted the invitation and promised to fulfill it as soon as possible.

Khidir pointed that Ghandour has briefed Brende on the pivotal role played by Sudan to resolve some regional crises, particularly in South Sudan, stressing participation of President Omer al-Bashir in the IGAD summit on South Sudan. The press release added that Ghandour pointed to Sudan's engagement with the regional and international partners to address the crisis in South Sudan, stressing the importance to reach a ceasefire and resume talks among all warring parties. It pointed that the two sides agreed to continue the work of the political consultation mechanisms between the two countries, saying Norway vowed to support Sudan's request to join the World Trade Organization (WTO). Khidir further said Sudan's top diplomat and his Norwegian counterpart agreed to exchange diplomatic training between the two countries, saying Brende pledged to support peace efforts in Darfur and the Two Areas.

US Charge d'Affaires from Darfur: If All Goes Well, Sanctions to be Lifted in July

The US Charge d'Affaires, Steven Koutsis, said on Monday his country is ready to work together with the Sudanese government to overcome the obstacles leading lifting the sanctions on Sudan. He said that if all goes well, the sanctions would be lifted in July. The delegation headed by Koutsis arrived in Central Darfur Jebel Marra area to inspect



recovery projects implemented by the USAID agency in Golo town. Koutsis and USAID officials are in a three-day visit to Darfur region. On Sunday the delegation met



with North Darfur government officials, UNAMID, displaced persons, Native Administration and Al Fasher University teachers. Speaking to professors and staff at the University, Koutsis said that the United States has demanded the government to work for comprehensive

peace help its neighbors in various aspects and improve its record in human rights. He added "It is logical to review the sanctions after imposing them for many years after verifying that the threat of Sudan is far less than North Korea's threat to the United States," linking the terrorism support file with full lifting of sanctions on Sudan. He pointed out that the lifting of sanctions will have an effect on financial and economic cooperation between the two countries, and that the cooperation will be limited in specific areas.



EU sends €22 million to improve education in Sudan

The European Union mission in Sudan announced on Thursday that €22 million (\$24.5 million) has been allocated to fund a programme to improve the quality of education in the country and combat child labour, Anadolu Agency has reported.

According to the head of the mission, Jean-Michel Dumond, the EU is using the money to fund several initiatives in Sudan to protect children from exploitation and to ensure that they secure a healthy childhood and future.

"This is in line with the goals of sustainable development and international conventions," he explained. The EU official expressed his commitment to in-



troduce measures to eradicate child labour completely. The intention is for "immediate and effective measures" to eliminate all forms of child and forced labour and to end slavery and human trafficking by the year 2025.

The programme funded by the EU aims to improve the quality of education in eastern and southern Sudan, making it accessible to all, including displaced people and communities.

Dumond's statement concluded that the EU is taking measures to protect the social and economic condition of families to prevent the main causes of exploitation of children at work by supporting the most vulnerable groups of refugees among host communities and internally displaced people.

Sudan Gold Production Beats Expectations

Sudan gold production in the first quarter of the current fiscal year stands at 27.7 tones, well over the planned production of 25 tones, scoring a percentage of 110 % according to Minister for Minerals, professor Hashim Ali Salim. In his review of his ministry performance during the same period has said some 13 agreements on gold and other minerals have been signed, indicating more improvement and progress.

Earlier this month, the minister said gold registered 37 percent of the country's exports with revenues amounting to 1.2 billion U.S Dollars. Sudan is a famous gold producing country. In fact, over 128 gold mining companies are currently involved in the country's

gold sector. The country has been experiencing a gold mining boom in the recent past thanks to the increase in the gold prices internationally. Gold production continues to grow by every year. This makes the country an impor-



tant gold mining investment opportunity. Untapped reserves stand at more than 1,000 tonnes, with excavations unearthing more. A recent find by the Russian company Siberian added 50,000 tonnes in gold reserves, bringing in a healthy \$1.702 trillion to the Sudanese treasury.

Sudan Hosts 5 million Africans

Sudan currently hosts five million Africans, including two million refugees and three million workers, Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported quoting a statement by the Sudanese Minister of International Cooperation.

Speaking at meeting held at the Sudanese capital of Khartoum between the ministry and the organizations working in the field of European aid, Idris Suleiman

stressed the importance of the international community's support for Sudan in the face of the African refugee crisis. The minister added that Sudan has been accommodating refugees on be-



half of the international community, calling for the development of a partnership with donor countries, including the European Union (EU) and the national and international civil society or-

ganizations. European financial support to Sudan amounted to \$340 million in 2016. The grant was allocated to fund the education, health and water sectors.

Over the last six years, Sudan has witnessed a major wave of inbound refugees, at a time when inhabitants in the south were being displaced as a result of the Darfur conflict and the tough humanitarian situation in the area. The African country has been suffering a sharp reduction in foreign grants and aid over the past two decades due to the US economic sanctions on Khartoum which were imposed in 1997.

TURKEY TO FARM 793 THOUSAND ACRES IN SUDAN

President of the Turkey-Sudan Business Council's (DEIK) Mehmet Ali Korkmaz, reveled the signing of the agreement between Turkey and Sudan on the acquisition of more than 793,000 acres of agricultural land in six different regions in the form of real estate rents of 99 years. The official Turkish news agency quoted Karmakaz as saying on Sunday that the two countries will establish a joint venture company of \$ 10 million, with 80 percent Turkey and 20 percent Sudan. Zaman newspaper



reported that the Directorate General of the Department of Agricultural Affairs, representing the Turkish side of the agreement, and the Sudanese side, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Korkmaz said the Turkish investors "will serve the roads leading to the villages where they will rent farmland, and open channels of irrigation," He added "The lease contract for immovable property for

investors will be 99 years." He explained, the Sudan will be responsible for protecting the unit of land invested, and to consider possible issues raised by other parties claiming the right to land, as well as protecting the security of farmers and workers.

Turkey

The agreement includes a total of 793,000 hectares of land leased by Turkey from six different regions of Sudan, of which 12,500 hectares will be allocated to the company. The remainder will be operated by the private sector. Turkish entrepreneurs will build domestic routes and irrigation channels for the locals. The total cost of these investments will be deducted from the rental price of the

land. The lease period of the properties to be allocated to entrepreneurs will be a maximum of 99 years. Investors will be responsible for the protection of the territorial integrity of the land, the removal of the third party claims, the safety of the land,

buildings, machinery and personnel. While agreeing on the establishment of an "Agriculture Zone" in a region to be set up by both sides in Sudan, Turkey and Sudan committed to developing agreements in

areas such as visas, residence and work permits for the trade economic business association. In a previous interview, Korkmaz pointed out that the coup attempt in Turkey delayed the implementation of the project developed for 780,000 hectares of agricultural land leased in Africa. "As Turkish investors, we have an appetite for utilizing the land in Sudan," Korkmaz had said.

IGAD Summit Appreciates Great Role of Sudan in Hosting Refugees from South Sudan



The 31st Extra-Ordinary Summit of IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government, which concluded session in Addis Ababa Monday with participation of President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al Bashir, commended the great role Sudan has remained assuming in hosting the refugees from South Sudan and treating them as Sudanese citizens and not as refugees. Sudan Ambassador to Addis Ababa Jamal Al Shiekh said in a statement to Sudan News Agency (SUNA) that the summit also praised the opening of the Sudanese humanitarian corridors for delivery of relief materials to the South Sudanese citizens, indicating that the summit affirmed that the IGAD would undertake a pioneering role in collaboration with the partners and that it had decided for the first time to make practical steps. The Ambassador pointed out that the outcome of the summit constituted a shift in dealing with the crisis in South Sudan.

U.S diplomat says African roadmap only can lead to peace in Sudan

U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, Steven Koutsis Wednesday reiterated the support of his country for a stable Sudan, adding that the African Union roadmap remains the only way for a peaceful solution.

Koutsis made his remarks at the end of a three-day visit to North, Central and East Darfur states that he described as "fruitful". He said the visit enabled him to see the consequences of war and the positive effects of humanitarian assistance to the civilians in the war-affected areas. "I reiterated the United States' support for a peaceful and stable Sudan. I have also made it very clear that negotiations for a lasting peace based on the African Union roadmap is the only way to settle differences. Returning to war is not an op-

tion," he said in a written statement posted on the embassy's page on Facebook. He



further called on all the warring parties to sign a humanitarian cessation of hostilities and to join the negotiating table to achieve peace and stability. The government and armed groups failed in August 2017 to ink a cessation of hostilities and a humanitarian agreement

to reach the needy in the war-affected zones. Washington has made some proposals to

encourage the parties but in vain. For the Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, a recent rift in the group is delaying the resumption of talks as the SPLM-N has suspended its participation in

the peace process until the settlement of the internal crisis. For Darfur, the divergence over the framework of the political process prevented any progress. The mediation and facilitators are struggling to find a common group between Khartoum and the armed

groups. "I hope to return soon to Darfur to see the progress the government and people have made in securing peace," Koutsis said.

The American diplomat concluded on Wednesday was in East Darfur State to visit South Sudanese refugees who fled violence and hunger in South Sudan. He celebrated World Refugee Day in El-Nimir camp in Ed Daein.

He discussed with representatives of East Darfur Humanitarian Aid Commission and Commission for Refugees the ongoing aid operation to South Sudanese refugees "We commended them on the work they have done to respond to the refugee crisis and their efforts in facilitating NGO and UN agencies' access to all areas of East Darfur," he said.