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Nashrat Al-Sabah



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SPLM ministers to be sworn in next week

A meeting yesterday between President Bashir, First Vice President Salva Kiir, and Vice President Taha ended with an agreement that federal ministers on the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) ticket be sworn in on December 27, said Presidential Press Officer, Mahjoub Fadul Badri. *(Al-Sudani)*

SRSQ Qazi says parties committed to CPA

The UN's Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sudan has expressed optimism that the National Congress Party (NCP) and the SPLM would overcome their differences over implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Yesterday, he told a press conference in Khartoum that the parties have agreed to complete redeployment of their respective forces by January 9, 2008. He noted that in talks with President Bashir and First Vice President Salva Kiir that both are committed to the implementation of the CPA. *(Al-Sahafa)*

Government supports transition to UNAMID

Yesterday, after a meeting with the head of the joint AU-UN operation, Presidential Assistant Nafei Ali Nafei told the press that discussions between them focused on the transition of AMIS to UNAMID by early next year. He said that they agreed on a number of issues pertaining to cooperation with the Sudanese government in the transition process. He said that Sudan supports the transition to UNAMID and believes it will lead to full implementation of UNAMID operations. *(Al-Rai Al-Aam)*

Kosti-Juba river route closed

The River Transport Association reports that they have suspended operations on the Kosti-Juba route in protest over the detention by the SPLA of four river barge crewmembers. The secretary of the association said they will only resume operations if their colleagues are released. He explained that SPLA elements are demanding SDG112,600 for the release of the crewmembers from the river barge *Adool*. He said the SPLA is demanding the ransom claiming "damages" the barge caused when it ran into a boat. He has called on the Government of Southern Sudan to intervene. *(Alwan)*

14 killed in tribal clashes in South Darfur

Tribal leaders said that clashes last Friday between the Salamat and Habbania tribes of South Darfur caused by donkey thefts left 14 people dead. They have called on the government to redeploy policemen hailing from the two tribes out of the region to reinstate the rule of law. *(Al-Sahafa)*

Rebel figure surrenders to government

A group of 13 rebel soldiers led by Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) figure Mohamed Abdalla Jiddo surrendered to authorities at the border town of Teina in Darfur. He has requested protection for himself and his comrades. He said that more commanders may walk out from the JEM as a result of growing dissent. He added that the JEM leader has given instructions to his soldiers to kill those who seek to walk out on the movement. *(Al-Intibaha et al, quoting SMC)*

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