



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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Controversy over UN forces deployment

- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated yesterday that Sudan must accept a strong international peacekeeping force in its war-torn Darfur region. Ban added that he is consulting with many African leaders to pressure Sudan to live up to an agreement reached with the UN and the African Union last November in Addis Ababa. He pointed to growing international frustration at the lack of progress in halting the violence in Darfur, and said he will push the issue further when he meets Arab leaders at a summit later this month in Saudi Arabia. (VOA)

- Ali Karti, the minister of state for foreign affairs, met in Cairo yesterday with the Arab League Secretary General Amr Musa and discussed possibilities for enlisting Arab countries' support to counter international pressures on Sudan. Karti stated that the outside pressure being exerted on Sudan to accept the deployment of international forces is part of a political agenda and is not aimed at providing security in Darfur. In addition, UN the undersecretary general for political affairs will arrive in Khartoum tomorrow. His visit includes Southern Sudan and Darfur. (Al-Ayaam)

- British Prime Minister Tony Blair is scheduled to visit Sudan in June before he leaves office in July. The objective of Blair's visit is to exert more pressure on the Government of Sudan to accept UN forces in Darfur. (Al-Rai Al-Aam)

Darfur

- Abdelwahid Al-Nur, the leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement, welcomed a UN Human Rights Council report condemning the violation of human rights committed against civilians in Darfur. Nur, however, dismissed the Council's charges against the rebel movements in the region. He said

that his group had urged the intervention of the international community to protect civilians in the troubled region of Darfur. (Sudan Tribune)

- (Editor's note) Reports yesterday of the arrests of international NGO staff in Nyala were referring to an incident that took place in January. Sudanese Media Center reported that a trial date is scheduled soon.

GOSS finance minister under investigation

- Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) official Luka Biyoung revealed that the lifting of immunity for the GOSS Minister of Finance has no relation to the controversy surrounding \$60 million in missing funds. Rather, it is related to a price gouging incident involving the government's purchase of vehicles from a company known as Cartel. (Al-Rai Al-Aam)

Explosives discovered in Bank of Sudan

- Authorities uncovered explosives in the Bank of Sudan. The customer carrying the bomb was reportedly affiliated with the Sudan Defense Forces. (Alwan, Al-Hayat)

Quote of the Day:

"This is a personal weapon, I do not wish to conduct any terrorist activity and I am here to exchange money only." - Member of the Sudan Defense Force when asked why he was carrying explosives in his bag.

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