



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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Bashir: The battle for peace is fiercer than war

President Bashir has called on the armed groups in Darfur to sit down and talk to end the bloodshed. He said this will avert the conspiracies of plotters against the country and of those who seek to trade in the children of Sudan. Bashir, who was addressing the opening session of the Islamic Da'awa Organization in Khartoum yesterday, also accused foreign humanitarian agencies of using Darfur as "cover for their criminal acts." He said that the battle for peace is fiercer than war itself. "The enemies of the country who thirst for its wealth and seek to disunite the country will spare no efforts to achieve their evil aims," he warned. *(Al-Rai Al-Aam)*

Elections bill to soon be issued

Abdalla Idries, the co-chair of the National Constitution Review Commission, said that they are in the final stages of drafting the Elections Bill. What remains are some articles on the electoral system and distribution of constituencies, he said. Parliament went on recess yesterday and will resume business in April but Abdalla says that agreement has been reached to convene an extraordinary session once the commission concludes drafting of the bill. *(Al-Rai Al-Aam)*

Envoys propose another conference in Arusha

UN Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, and his AU colleague, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, have proposed that another conference be convened in Arusha, Tanzania, to enable the armed groups in Darfur to unify their negotiating positions. The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) has described the proposal as a "waste of time and a repeat of past mistakes" but some armed groups have accepted the idea. *(Al-Ayaam)*

Top Sudanese diplomat to the U.S. to meet envoy

The Charge d'Affaires at the Sudanese Embassy in Washington says he expects to meet the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan, Richard Williamson, in the next few days. He said that the Sudan mission is determined to launch major efforts to bolster relations between Washington and Khartoum. He also said that he hoped to raise issues pertaining to bilateral relations, UNAMID, and Guantanamo in talks with the Special Envoy. Sources meanwhile report that Foreign Minister Deng Alor may travel to Washington in early February. *(Al-Rai Al-Aam)*

President Bashir to meet UN Secretary General

The AU-UN Joint Special Representative for Darfur, Rodolphe Adada, has revealed that President Bashir will hold talks with Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the fringes of the AU Summit in Addis Ababa late this month. Adada said he held talks on January 16 with Foreign Minister Deng Alor to prepare for the envisaged meeting that will discuss outstanding issues. He also assured that the AU and the UN have no "hidden agenda" in Sudan and that the international community supports unity in the country. Ali Al-Sadig, the spokesman for the foreign ministry, said that Minister Alor has pledged support for the success of the hybrid operations. *(Al-Khartoum)*

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service of the Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. This summary does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.