



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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President Bashir visits Darfur

- President Omar Al-Bashir visited the three states of Darfur on Saturday for the first time since the start of the four-year conflict there. During his visit Al-Bashir inaugurated several development projects in South Darfur. Addressing crowds in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur, Al-Bashir advised the media and public against using labels such as “Arab” and “African” stating that this is a conspiracy against Darfur and the unity of the Sudan. He added that Sudan does not need American or Asian involvement to solve its problems. He also questioned whether U.S. President Bush and British Prime Minister Brown would dare address a crowd such as this in Baghdad. The Council of Ministers is scheduled to hold its regular meeting in Al-Fasher today. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, Al-Intibaha, et al*)

Darfur peace efforts

- The UN has urged Abdel Wahid Al-Nour, leader of a faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) to join efforts to end the crisis in Darfur. Nour stated that he will not participate in the upcoming conference in Arusha and will not start any negotiation with government of Sudan before the deployment of UN forces in Darfur and the implementation of all UN Security Council Resolutions. He added that the government of Sudan is not serious about reaching a solution to the crisis in Darfur. Meanwhile, the spokesman for Minni Manawi’s SLM faction, Al-Tayeb Khamis, warned the government of Sudan against delaying the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), adding that his movement already has submitted a complaint to the African Union. (*Al-Aaym, Al-Khartoum*)

British and French leaders may visit Darfur

- British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and French President Nicolas Sarkozy say that they are prepared to make a joint visit to Darfur to help end the crisis there. Speaking after a meeting in Paris, the two leaders said they would jointly sponsor a United Nations resolution calling for an African Union and UN peacekeeping force. Mr. Brown says both he and President Sarkozy are committed to securing a UN resolution. (*Al-Ray Al-Aam*)

First Vice President Kiir’s visit to China

- Sudan’s First Vice President, and President of the South Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, said in his visit to China that both the north and the south of Sudan are committed to national unity and reconstruction. He invited China to participate in the reconstruction of southern Sudan and promote cooperation between Sudan and China. Mayardit expressed his gratitude for China's positive role in helping resolve the problems in Darfur. (*Al-Wihda*)

Kajbar leader arrested

- Friday morning, security forces arrested the deputy head of Kajbar’s local committee, Osman Ibrahim. Ibrahim was taken from his house in the village of Furaig in the province of Wadi Halfa. Ibrahim was accused of instigating the confrontation between police forces and the local inhabitants who protested the construction of the dam near Kajbar. Last month, four people were killed in the confrontations. (*Al-Sudani*)

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