



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS



Nashrat Al-Sabah

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## **AU: Sanctions should not be imposed on Sudan**

- Following his meeting yesterday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the African Union Commissioner Alpha Omar Konare expressed amazement at voices calling for the imposition of sanctions on Sudan. Konare said the time was not appropriate to impose such a measure. Instead, he said, that would lead to a crisis of confidence leading to "further complications." Konare added that the Darfur problem cannot be resolved militarily. (*Sudan Vision*)

## **UN reports new clashes in Darfur**

- In a report yesterday, the UN Mission in Sudan revealed new clashes between the Sudanese Government forces and rebels in the Rockero area of North Darfur state. The UN did not estimate the number of casualties during the violence, which took place last Saturday. (*UN News*)

## **Journalists boycott parliament session**

- Journalists who cover parliamentary sessions boycotted yesterday's session in which the Minister of Justice Mohamed Al-Mardi submitted his annual report. The boycott was intended as a protest against the Ministry's use of Article 130 of the Criminal Procedural Law against newspapers to suspend them. MPs demanded the annulment of Article 130 arguing that the Constitution has granted the right of freedom of expression to all Sudanese. (*Al-Ayam, Al-Watan, et al*)

## **New SPLM office opens in Juba**

- The Speaker of the Government of South Sudan legislative assembly and the U.S. Department of State's Director of the Sudan Programs Group, Lauren Landis, inaugurated the new Sudan People's

Liberation Movement premises in Juba earlier this week. Landis said the CPA was the "master key" of all Sudan's problems and the marginalized people in the South and Darfur. She called upon the GOSS to make a "tangible reality." (*The Citizen*)

## **France to coordinate conference on Darfur**

- France's new Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner is seeking to bring China, the United States and other countries together for talks on the crisis in Darfur, according to Urgence Darfour, a French NGO. Kouchner wants to set up a contact group of nations concerned about the violence in Darfur. Jacky Mamou, president of Urgence Darfour, said Monday that "the goal for the coming weeks is to set up a contact group in which there would not only be Americans, British, Germans, Canadians, Chinese and Russians but also the neighbouring countries, including Eritrea and Egypt." (*AFP*)

## **Khartoum-Beijing direct flights**

- Sudan's ambassador to China announced yesterday plans for direct flights between Khartoum and Beijing to strengthen the "fast-growing economic and commercial relations between the two countries." The two countries recently signed a civil aviation agreement.

## **Sudan-Venezuelan relations**

- Minister of Energy and Mines Awad Al-Jaz concluded his visit to Venezuela yesterday. Al-Jaz delivered an invitation from President Al-Bashir to Venezuelan President Chavez to visit Sudan. He held a series of meetings with Venezuelan officials and discussed bilateral commercial cooperation. (*Al-Wihda*)

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