



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



Nashrat Al-Sabah

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U.S.-Sudan Relations

- The head of the National Congress Party's (NCP) Information Department, Ibrahim Ahmed Omer, commented on statements made by President Bush regarding the U.S. intention to formulate a new plan for Darfur. Ibrahim considers this plan "good progress," arguing that the U.S. administration is realizing that the Darfur crisis will not be resolved by neglecting the Government of Sudan. (*Al-Sudani*)

- The Sudanese Media Center reported that U.S. naval forces based in the Red Sea obstructed a Sudanese commercial ship en route to Port Sudan yesterday. Reports reveal that the crew was detained for four hours and not permitted to contact Sudanese authorities. The crew was later released. (*Al-Sahafa*)

Darfur

- A group affiliated with the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM - Minawi) broke into the Nyala (South Darfur) courthouse to release two SLM detainees. This attack resulted in clashes between police present at the courthouse and the attackers. There were no reports of injuries. (*Al-Sahafa*)

- Senior Assistant to the President Minni Minawi will begin a visit to the Darfur region on Monday. This visit is the first for Minawi since his appointment as Senior Assistant to the President. (*Al-Khartoum*)

Controversy Between the NCP and SPLM

-The NCP has responded to Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) threats that they would bring the controversial issue of Abyei's boundaries to the national parliament for discussion.

The NCP has hinted at using its majority in the Parliament to refer this issue over to the Constitutional Court. (*Al-Adwaa*)

Miscellaneous

- President Al-Bashir has granted amnesty to 21 convicts involved in the last coup attempt. The convicts were former members of the armed forces. (*Rai Al-Shaab*)

- There was a small fire that damaged a small business in the vicinity of the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum yesterday. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Commentaries:

- Pro-GOS Arabic and English language dailies criticized statements made by British Prime Minister Tony Blair and President Bush on Darfur. The English daily *Sudan Vision* argued that Blair and Bush are using Darfur as a "scapegoat for their failed policies." Meanwhile Arabic dailies *Al-Khartoum* and *Al-Wihda* considered Bush and Blair's statements regarding Darfur as "an attempt to divert attention from the Iraqi crisis."

Quote of the Day

"The SPLM should not threaten the NCP with drowning. Crocodiles know how to float." -- Al-Dirdeeri Mohamed Ahmed, National Congress Party MP, in response to the controversy between the NCP and the SPLM over the issue of Abyei's boundaries. The MP is making the point that the NCP can overcome any obstacle.

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