



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan in Khartoum

- U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan Andrew S. Natsios met yesterday with Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie, who informed reporters that an agreement has been reached with Natsios on the need for negotiating a solution to Darfur as soon as possible. He also expressed hope that efforts to reunite the rebel groups would be successful. The U.S. envoy described talks with Nafie as “positive,” adding that they focused on means to reach a settlement and the role he could play in boosting peace in the country. Natsios further stated that it was necessary to “broaden the search for peace to all rebel groups.” During his week-long visit to Sudan, Natsios is expected to travel to Darfur and Juba. (*Al-Sahafa, Al-Sudani, Sudan TV*)

International Criminal Court (ICC) indictments

- During a speech he gave yesterday in South Korfodan, Sudan’s President Omer Al-Bashir vowed he would not hand over any Sudanese to be tried outside Sudan. Al-Bashir further stated that U.S. President Bush, British Prime Minister Blair, and former Israeli Prime Minister Sharon should be tried for crimes against humanity committed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Palestine. (*Al-Sahafa*)

Darfur

- European Union ministers will call on the United Nations next week to consider urgently a tightening of sanctions on Sudan as well as a pledge of funds to convert the African Union (AU) peacekeeping force into a joint mission with the UN. (*Khartoum Monitor*)

- Armed men attacked the home of an AU peacekeeper in North Darfur’s capital, El-Fasher, on Thursday. AU spokesman Nouredine Mezni stated that “Four unidentified armed men dressed in civilian clothes attacked the residence of an AU civilian officer.” (*Reuters*)

- Vice President Salva Kiir reiterated on Friday his support for the deployment of international forces to Darfur arguing that the Government of National Unity “failed to secure the safety of citizens and their properties in Darfur, or to ensure humanitarian relief to the needy.” To resolve the crisis, “there must be external support,” Kiir affirmed. Several members of the ruling National Congress Party criticized Kiir’s statements, saying that they should have come from an opposition leader, not a partner in the government. (*Al-Wihda, Al-Sahafa, et al*)

Editorials and commentaries

- A columnist wrote, “The U.S. Chargé d’Affaires in Khartoum admitted that the American sanctions on Sudan left no effects on Sudan’s economy, (therefore the U.S.) resorted to activate her guard dog wrongly named ICC prosecutor.” (*Sudan Vision*)

Quote of the Day:

“Bush and Blair are the ones to be sent to the International Criminal Court.” – President Al-Bashir

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