



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



Nashrat Al-Sabah

January 28, 2007

Sudan's Presidency at the African Union

- U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer held talks yesterday in Addis Ababa with Egyptian, South African, and Nigerian foreign ministers regarding Sudan's presidency of the AU. Sources revealed that the discussions were aimed at obstructing Sudan from chairing the AU this year. (*Al-Sahafa*)

- Meanwhile, Chadian Foreign Minister Ahmed Alaam-Mi announced that Chad will withdraw from the AU if Sudan becomes chairman. Darfur rebels also stated that they will refuse peace talks and will fight AU peacekeepers on the ground if Sudanese President Al-Bashir becomes chairperson of the pan-African body. (*Sudan Tribune*)

- Informed sources revealed that Libya has suspended \$60 million previously allocated to support AU forces in Darfur. Sources say that the reason for the suspension is to press Sudan to withdraw from the AU presidency at the upcoming summit. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

- Assistant to the President Nafie Ali Nafie called on President Al-Bashir not to withdraw Sudan's candidacy as the next chair of the AU. Nafie asserted that certain "western diplomatic parties" conspiring to obstruct Sudan from chairing the AU. (*Al-Watan*)

Sudan-Iran Relations

- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is scheduled to arrive in Khartoum in mid-February. A Sudanese-Iranian summit is expected to take place in Khartoum to discuss bilateral cooperation in the fields of commerce and technology. (*Al-Sahafa*)

Commentary: South Sudan flap

- In Saturday's *Khartoum Monitor* (independent), the "Let us speak out" column by editor Alfred Taban provides a hard-hitting account of what he believes is a purposeful campaign by the National Congress Party to undermine the credibility of the Government of South Sudan. "The king makers in Khartoum have not forgiven the SPLA for driving them out of the South. They want the South to be ungovernable so that they can return as the saviors of the South and then bleed it dry," Taban wrote.

Miscellaneous

- An Indian U.N. peacekeeper in southern Sudan was killed and two other peacekeepers were wounded by unidentified attackers as they helped clear landmines on Friday. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the attack and demanded a swift investigation. (*Alwan*)

- Parliament Speaker Ahmed Al-Tahir leaves tomorrow for the United States where he is scheduled to meet with representatives from the U.S. Congress. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

- Merchants of Omdurman and Al-Kalakla (Khartoum state) began a strike to object to the imposition of high taxes by the locality of Khartoum. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Quote of the Day:

"The unity of Sudan needs a new foundation based on democratic concepts." – Federal Minister of Investment Malik Agar.

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.