



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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Darfur

- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ali Karti received U.S. Envoy for Sudan Andrew S. Natsios at Khartoum International Airport yesterday evening. Natsios stated that the objective of his visit is to hold talks with Sudanese officials regarding the Darfur crisis and the situation in South Sudan. Natsios is expected to visit the regions of Darfur, Abyei, and Malakal during his three-day visit. He is also scheduled to meet with First Vice President Salva Kiir and Foreign Minister Lam Akol today. Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali Saddig stated that the Sudanese government had no knowledge of Natsios' intended initiative to resolve the Darfur crisis and expressed hope that the U.S. would submit "serious proposals to resolve the crisis." (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, Al-Sahafa, et al*)

- Elements described as "Sudanese border intelligence" attacked the market of El-Fasher yesterday, causing eight casualties. These same elements reportedly shot at the wali (governor) of North Darfur, Yusuf Kibir, who was in El-Fasher market. Further, North Darfur government officials resigned to protest the presence of the border intelligence elements who "are not obedient to the Government of North Darfur and continue to attack civilians." Meanwhile, the African Union condemned the recent attack in El-Fasher and called for the expulsion of all armed groups from El-Fasher. (*Al-Ayaam*)

- Armed militias attacked a vehicle in El-Gineina (West Darfur) yesterday, resulting in 18 civilian deaths. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

- Minister of Interior Al-Zubeir Bashir Taha accused the UN of supporting rebels morally and logistically. He further called on the UN to stop the entry of arms into Darfur from Chad. The minister further questioned why the UN would want to

intervene in Sudan, given its failure in Iraq. (*Al-Sahafa*)

- British Prime Minister Tony Blair stated yesterday that Britain and other countries will have to consider "alternative approaches" if Sudan's government and rebels do not make rapid progress towards ending the Darfur crisis. Blair urged the Sudanese government and rebels to move quickly to implement a ceasefire, commit to a political process, and agree to an effective peacekeeping force. He further asserted that Britain would continue to support the process that was adopted in high-level talks in Addis Ababa and Abuja. (*Al-Wihda*)

Miscellaneous

- Sudanese Presidential Envoy Mustafa Osman Ismail held talks with Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah in order to bridge differences between the Lebanese factions. [Note: Sudan is the current Arab League chair.] (*Al-Hayat*)

- UN Special Representative to Sudan Jan Pronk arrived in Khartoum yesterday on a non-official visit to hand over his duties to his successor. (*Al-Sudani*)

Quote of the Day

"The President's claim that the National Redemption Front has seized all Sudan Liberation Movement-controlled zones is misleading." – Al-Tayeb Khamees, SLM Media Advisor.

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.