



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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Qatar State Minister begins two-day Sudan visit

Yesterday, the Qatari State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Ahmed bin Abdalla Al-Mahmoud, began a two-day visit to Khartoum. The visit comes within the context of Qatar's mediation toward solving the Darfur conflict. Speaking to reporters at Khartoum International Airport, the Qatari minister stated that his talks in Khartoum would be with Sudanese government officials in order to review the means of consolidating Sudanese-Qatari relations, the peace process in Darfur and issues of mutual concern. Al-Mahmoud pointed out that at a recent meeting in Libya, he met with some of the Darfur leaders armed movements and reviewed issues relating to the peace process in Darfur. (*Sudan News Agency*)

GoS denies questioning UNHCR Commissioner

The Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has denied newspaper reports alleging that the Government of Sudan had called in the Head of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) for questioning with regard to what it called UNHCR's "involvement" in helping Sudanese refugees in Chad to migrate to the United States and Israel. (*Al-Wifaq*)

Food assistance to alleviate famine in the South

The Sudanese government has affirmed that it is exerting "its utmost effort to co-ordinate with concerned United Nations (UN) organizations in order to fight famine in areas of Southern Sudan." Sudanese Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs, Abdel Bagi Gailani, disclosed that "a plane carrying food and other provisions" was sent to the affected areas yesterday. (*Al Watan*)

"Tribal conflicts caused by proliferation of arms"

-United Nations Secretary General Representative to Sudan Ashraf Qadi said that "the tribal conflicts in the south of Sudan are a result of arms proliferation to civilians in the region." The UN mission has expressed particular concern with regard to tribal violence in Sudan and its impact on the upcoming elections, the referendum for self-determination and the security situation in Malakal as well as the areas surrounding it. (*Al-Khartoum*)

-Another article published on *Sudan Tribune.com* quoted UN Mission Coordinator David Gressly downplaying allegations that "the National Congress Party is fuelling tribal conflicts in the region" and that "local factors are behind the tribal violence in Southern Sudan." Asked about allegations by SPLM officials that the National Congress Party was behind the increased tribal fighting, Gressly reiterated that the situation is "best understood as local conflicts. We have seen no direct evidence of these allegations."

Whereabouts of abducted NGO staff identified

According to an unnamed official source at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, the whereabouts of the two recently abducted staff members of the foreign humanitarian aid agency Goal has been identified. Earlier this month, one Irish and one Ugandan aid-worker from Goal organization were abducted by an unknown group in the Kutom area of North Darfur State. The two abductees are reported to be in good health and are expected to be released soon. (*Al-Ayam, Sudan News Agency, Al-Wifaq*)

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