



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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SPLM boycotting US-Sudan talks

SPLM's Deputy Secretary General Yasser Arman said that all the ministers of Southern Sudan are going to withdraw from the talks scheduled to be conducted between the US and the Government of Sudan (GOS) during the visit of the Special Envoy Richard Williamson. Arman added that SPLM decided to boycott the talks to express its objection to the recent fighting in Abyei between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) which left many people dead and displaced thousands. Arman said that the dialogue between US and the GOS is not useful for SPLM, and it might even encourage the GOS to launch more attacks on Abyei. (*Al-Ayaam, Al-Sahafa, Al-Ray Al-Aam, Al-Wahda, Al-Wefaq*)

New joint forces for Abyei

In an extraordinary meeting called for by UN Secretary General Representative (UNSGR) Ashraf Qazi, the Ceasefire Political Committee (CPC) approved the formation of a fact-finding committee to investigate Abyei's recent incidents. The CPC also decided to form new joint forces for Abyei with the exclusion of all forces involved in the fighting. The meeting called on the Presidency to speed up the demarcation of Abyei boundaries and the formation of an administration in the town. (*Khartoum Monitor, Sudan Vision, Al-Ayaam et al*)

NCP-DUP Joint statement

The National Congress Party (NCP) and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) will resume their dialogue in the near future. The announcement came in a joint press release issued yesterday. The NCP welcomed the national reconciliation initiative of Mohamed Osman Al-Mirghani, DUP's President. The statement highlighted that the DUP welcomed

the new reconciliation agreement signed recently by the NCP and Al-Umma Party. A joint committee was formed by the two sides (NCP and DUP) to prepare their future meetings agenda. In another development, an informal meeting was held between DUP factions' leaders (Mirghani, Hindi and others) to start negotiating on unifying their powers in order to play a positive role in the country's future. Hindi predicted that the DUP "unity" is going to be realized before the upcoming elections or even before approving the elections laws. (*Al-Wefaq et al*)

Sudan denies importing Egyptian farmers

The Ministry of Agriculture denied any intention to bring five million Egyptian farmers to settle in Al-Gazira State and work in agriculture projects. The Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Al-Zubeir Bashir Taha, explained in a press conference that there is a signed agreement for a joint project between the Egyptian private sector and the Union of Al-Gazira Farmers to cultivate 79,000 feddans (acres) in Al-Gazira State. He added that the agreement protects all the rights of local farmers and communities (*Al-Sahafa*)

Peacekeepers abusing children

After its research in Ivory Coast, Sudan, and Haiti, the charity organization Save the Children concluded that children are sexually abused by peacekeepers and aid workers. The organization proposed setting up an international watchdog organization to monitor the situation in the post-war zones. (*Sudan Vision et al*)

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.