



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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US-Sudan dialogue resumes today

- The third round of talks between US and Sudan is scheduled to resume today in Khartoum. The first two rounds were held in Washington and Rome. High on the meetings' agenda: US sanctions on Sudan, the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and solving Abyei crisis. The meetings will be held behind closed doors without the participation of SPLM ministers who decided to boycott the talks to express their objection to the deteriorating situation in Abyei. US Presidential Special Envoy Richard Williamson will head the US delegation in the talks. Williamson expressed yesterday the Bush administration's willingness to help the two sides solve the Abyei problem.

- Speaking in a press conference held in Tokyo on the sidelines of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), the Sudanese President, Omar Hassan Al-Bashir proposed the formation of a joint administration in Abyei; the rejection of his proposal came soon from Southern Sudanese officials. Yasser Arman, SPLM's Deputy Secretary General described President Bashir's proposal as a "public relations statement that doesn't address the actual situation in Abyei." At the end of his visit to Abyei yesterday, US Special Envoy Williamson said that he wants to listen to more details about Bashir's proposal, and he suggested a separation force between the two sides on the ground to prevent future clashes, adding that he is going to discuss the idea in his talks today. *(Al-Ayaam, Al-Sahafa, the Citizen et al)*

Election law on the cabinet's table

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Joseph Akilo, predicted that the election law could be tabled at the Cabinet meeting this week. The law

has been awaiting the Presidency's approval. Akilo affirmed the importance of revising the bill by the Ministry of Justice before transferring it to the Parliament. The Sudanese Parliament wants to revise the bill, discuss it and approve it before the end of the current session or the country could risk delaying the general elections scheduled early next year. *(Al-Wahda, Al-Sudani, Ray Al-Shaab et al)*.

Dispute over Halayeb resurfaces

The Red Sea State governor, Mohamed Tahir Illa, said in a statement Friday that Halayeb area is and will remain part of Sudan even after ten years of being controlled by the Egyptian military. Illa called the Egyptian side to resort to reason to solve the problem and return the area to Sudanese sovereignty. The Egyptian Ambassador in Khartoum, Mohamed Al-Shazli, warned of trying to escalate the subject, describing the relations between Egypt and Sudan as "eternal" and are not limited to Halayeb. Al-Shazli expressed respect for Sudan's point of view toward Halayeb saying the issue could be solved through regional organization, not necessarily through the UN Security Council. *(Al-Khartoum, Al-Sharee Al-Seyassi)*

New rift in DUP leadership

Fath Al-Rahman Ibrahim Sheela, the well-known DUP leader, announced his resignation as the party's Deputy Secretary General after spending 30 years working for DUP. In a press statement, Sheela apologized to the party's members for his resignation indicating that he will protect all party secrets. Sheela said he resigned because the party no longer is that of the "independence generation." *(Al-Ray Al-Aam)*

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.