

SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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International arbitration for Abyei

Deng Alor, the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Sudan, expressed optimism a solution is about to be reached for Abyei crisis. From his part, Dardiri Mohamed Ahmed, the NCP holder of the Abvei dossier, announced an agreement is to be finalized between the two peace partners, the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) within 48 hours. Dardiri's statements came in a press conference following a meeting between the two partners and the UN Security Council visiting delegation. During the same press conference the international delegation announced that the two sides decided to resort to international arbitration to determine the fate of the disputed Abyei area and its border demarcation. (Al-Sudani, Al-Sahafa, Akhbar Al-Yom, Al-Ray Al-Aam, et al)

Satisfaction with CPA implementation

The first session of talks between the international visiting delegation concentrated on Darfur, UNAMID, the hybrid force deployment and the humanitarian situation in the region. Nafie Ali Nafie, Senior Presidential Adviser, reiterated that the government is bent on giving priority to a political solution for the Darfur problem. The Security Council delegation members proposed adding Thai and Nepalese units to supplement the hybrid operation. The government underlined that priority will be given to African troops, though it will not object to the proposed units from Thailand and Nepal. UNSC delegation co-chairman and British envoy to the council, John Sawers, praised the level of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) implementation so far accomplished and declared support for the government's efforts in that regard. (Al-Sudani, Al-Sahafa, Akhbar Al-Yom, Al-Ray Al-Aam, et al)

GOS refuses to hand over suspects to ICC

The government of Sudan announced it will not hand over any of its citizens to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to be prosecuted outside the country. Sudan's ambassador to the UN, Abdelhalim Aldelmahmoud, told reporters "Khartoum will never extradite any Sudanese to the Hague." He added that "Sudan is not a member of the ICC; they have no jurisdiction over us." Three Sudanese officials are accused of committing war crimes in Darfur. (Al Sahafa, Al-Ayyam, et al)

Parliament rejects tobacco bill

The Sudanese parliament dismissed yesterday the Tobacco Act for 2008 at its second stage of presentation. The Federal Health Minister, Tabitha Butrous, accused unnamed parties of inserting modifications to the act which would have benefited them personally. (Akhir Lahza, Sudan Vision)

Cholera strikes Eastern Equatoria

Emilo Igga, Commissioner of Magui County in East Equatoria State told reporters that cholera is claiming lives of recently repatriated refugees in the county. Igga indicated the county cannot contain the virus that causes cholera, adding that the county lacks medicine and health workers have limited knowledge about how to contain the disease. Igga said the problem is related to the lack of treated water for the communities. After the repatriation of citizens from East Africa, they switched to rain water sources, which are not treated. (*The Citizen*)

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.