

SUDAN MORNING NEWS

Nashrat Al-Sabah

June 23, 2008

Minawi denies visiting Chad

In a phone call to the *Al-Sudani* newspaper late yesterday, Senior presidential aide Minni Minawi "denied that he traveled outside of Sudan or met with Chadian President Deby." In response to a question about the reasons behind his disappearance for almost a month, Minawi said "I have not been hiding, nor have I disappeared; I have been with Sudan Liberation Movement forces and have made several visits to the areas of Dar al-Salam and Mazbad." He added that during the visits he had "managed to reconcile some tribes." Minawi further reaffirmed his commitment to the peace process, although he admitted his "frustration with the progress of implementing the Abuja Peace Agreement." He added that a "return to war was not an option." (Al-Sudani)

Republic of Sudan Radio news stories

- President Bashir to head his government's delegation to participate in the African Union summit in Egypt on June 30th.
- The Minister of Agriculture will brief the National Assembly today on the new agricultural season.
- Presidential advisors Musa Muhammad Ahmad, Dr. Mustafa Uthman Ismail, and Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmud Hamid will attend a ceremony for a group of "peace forces" in Kassala.
- Minister of Finance and National Economy, Dr. Awad Al-Jaz, and the Minister of Cabinet Affairs will address an economic development forum in Khartoum today.

- The training of joint forces in the Abyei region has begun.
- Arab League Secretary-General Amr Musa will arrive in Khartoum "in the next few days" for talks with government officials. Musa will also visit Juba and Darfur.
- The director of safety at the Civil Aviation Authority, Muhammad Hasan, says that Sudan Airways has "been suspended for violating civil aviation regulations."
- President Bashir has reiterated his "total rejection to hand over any national to the International Criminal Court" for trial in The Hague.

Southern Sudan Radio news stories

- The Government of Southern Sudan's cabinet and a visiting ministerial delegation from the Government of National Unity are reviewing the implementation of the Abyei road map.
- The speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly and an accompanying delegation briefed the Irish government on development in the region.
- The Vice-President of Southern Sudan says that a "decentralized system of government is appropriate for the country."

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.