



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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### **UNAMID forces ambushed**

Gunmen on horseback and using all-wheel-drive vehicles reportedly ambushed a UNAMID patrol south of El Fasher (North Darfur) on July 8, killing seven and wounding 22, according to press reports. The Government of Sudan accused rebel groups that did not sign the Darfur Peace Agreement as well as other groups of being behind the attack, and the government further urged the international community to take the lead in preventing such attacks. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, et al*)

### **Lifting immunity for Pagan Amum**

Sudan's Minister of Cabinet Affairs Pagan Amum continues to be the subject of considerable media attention in the wake of statements he made calling Sudan a failed and corrupt state, and subsequent calls by some in the government that his immunity be lifted to allow for an investigation. First Vice President Salva Kiir has asked all Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) ministers to convene in Juba today to discuss this matter. SPLM Secretary General Yassir Arman said the investigation into Amum was "regrettable" and might have negative consequences on relations between the SPLM and the ruling National Congress Party (NCP). Arman also said that Amum is leaving office anyway soon so there is no need for the attack against him. (*Akhir Lahza, Al-Wifaq, Radio Miraya FM, Khartoum Monitor, et al*)

### **British Foreign Minister visits Sudan**

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband has begun his meetings with Sudanese officials during a three-day visit to Sudan. He said the UK has offered to host peace talks between the Government of Sudan and those parties that have not signed the Darfur Peace Agreement. He also praised the

implementation of the Abyei road map and called for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Miliband described the situation in Sudan as "fragile." (*Sudan Vision, The Citizen, et al*)

### **Riek Machar paints rosy outlook for Sudan**

Speaking to the governors of Sudan's states in Merowe, Government of Southern Sudan Vice President Riek Machar said the national elections would go ahead as planned in 2009. He stated that the SPLM and NCP had concluded three years together as a Government of National Unity in a peaceful fashion and predicted that the next three years would be no different.. The coming period would witness a move toward democracy, elections, and a referendum on national unity in 2010. (*Al-Khartoum*)

### **China exploring for oil**

*Al-Sahafa* reported talks between the Government of Sudan and Chinese oil companies on oil exploration in the Darfur region. According to the report, such exploration would take place under Sudanese military supervision.

### **Acute food shortage in South**

*Al-Khartoum* newspaper reported that there are acute food shortages in Eastern Equatoria State.

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.