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President Bashir inaugurates dam project

President Omer Al-Bashir visited Blue Nile State to lay the foundation stone for the Roseires Dam Elevation project, which was inaugurated yesterday. The President pledged to provide “more development services for the people, to alleviate poverty from the region.” Malik Agar, Governor of Blue Nile State, hailed the presidential visit and said that the elevation of the Rosieres Dam was “a genuine boost to national economy.” The executive director of the unit, Osama Abdulla, added that the project would result in “an increase of cultivatable land and would render huge benefits for the entire country.” (*Al-Intibaha, Ajas Al Hurria, Khartoum Monitor, et-al*)

UN says “Egypt’s role in Darfur issue is pivotal”

-Ban Ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary-General, announced that he was mostly depending on Egypt “to play a pivotal role in resolving the crisis in Darfur.” He added that he was depending on Egyptian president Mubarak to “call on all the concerned Sudanese parties to bring them to the negotiation table.” Moon told reporters from the Egyptian *Al-Ahram* newspaper that he “did not believe that serving justice would hamper the peace process in Sudan, should the Sudanese president Al-Bashir be indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC).”

-An article in *Akher Lahza* contested the Secretary-General’s statement regarding the possible indictment of Al-Bashir, reporting that the government of Sudan “strongly criticized” Moon’s announcement as being “premature” and it “confirmed their belief that the ICC’s action against the Sudanese president was politically motivated.”

International legal experts support Sudan

Abdel Basit Sabdarat, the Sudanese Minister of Legal Affairs, has revealed that “legal experts from the U.S. and other countries intend to visit Sudan to support the Sudanese stance towards the ICC issue and provide legal advice on how to oppose the allegations made by the Prosecutor General of the ICC, Luis Moreno-Ocampo.” (*Al Rai-Al-Aam*)

GOSS ministers accused of corruption

Rebecca Garang, Presidential Advisor for Human Rights and Gender Issues for the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), and widow of the late Dr. John Garang, accused GOSS’s Vice-President, Riak Machar, and the Minister of Justice, Michael Makwai, of “being corrupt.” The accusations came yesterday during a parliamentary session, where Garang accused the two ministers of issuing trade licenses for fraudulent companies in order to earn a five percent commission from oil companies operating in Juba. (*Al Rai-Al-Aam, The Citizen*)

Northern Bahr El Ghazal warns of floods

Giir Riiny Lual, State Minister of Physical Infrastructure in North Bahr El Ghazal State, warned officials of a high increase in the water level of the Lul River that may lead to floods in the area. Lual told Miraya FM that the recent floods, which had occurred in Eastern Aweil, had “swamped the markets and agricultural fields in the area.” (*Rai Al-Shaab*)

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.