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AU/UN Mediator to hold talks in Khartoum

The joint AU/UN Mediator, Djibril Bassole, is scheduled to hold talks in Khartoum tomorrow with various officials with regards to the Darfur reconciliation initiative. According to an informed diplomatic source, Bassole will meet with First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit, Presidential Aide Nafie Ali Nafie, Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail, and Foreign Minister Deng Alor. (*Al-Watan, Al-Khartoum*)

SPLM and JEM sign agreement in Washington

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding the day before yesterday in Washington. The two parties agreed to work together on resolving the Darfur crisis. According to the agreement, First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit and the JEM Leader Khalil Ibrahim, were to convene in Juba to discuss the issue. The agreement was signed on behalf of the respective parties by Pagan Amum, SPLM Secretary-General, and Ahmed Hussein, JEM's official spokesperson. (*Al-Ayam*)

Dam projects initiated in Juba

During President Al-Bashir's scheduled visit to Juba on Wednesday, he will witness the signing of contracts to build dams in Wau, Torit and Juba. The project's first phase is expected to cost approximately \$600 million. Osama Abdullah, Minister and Executive Director of Dams Implementation Unit, mentioned to Sudan News Agency (SUNA) that the dams would have a tremendous effect on the socio-economic development in the region and provide sufficient sources of electricity. Abdallah explained that the project would be financed by the Dams

Implementation Unit in addition to other available funding options. (*Al-Watan*)

Insecurity in Jonglei State

Following cattle raids by the Lou Nuer clan on their neighboring communities, the region is facing greater insecurity that threatens stability. According to the Governor of Jonglei State, a number of civilians and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) troops were killed and injured as the Nuer raiders tried to resist SPLA troops attempting to subdue the attackers. (*The Citizen*)

Omdurman City threatened by floods

Heavy rainfall in the Ethiopian highlands has resulted in an alarming rise of the Nile in various parts of Sudan. The flood threat includes the city of Omdurman. Residents living in the flood-affected areas have complained that the authorities have done nothing to contain the floods apart from providing the locals with empty sacks to fill with sand to use as levees. Meanwhile, the chairman of the Civil Defense Forces told Sudan National Television that the situation along the Nile was under control and that the government had purchased advance warning equipment in case of a flood emergency. (*Khartoum Monitor*)

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.