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Sudanese FM slams Williamson's statements

Ali Al-Sadiq, the official spokesperson of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, said that "the Foreign Ministry denounces U.S. Special Envoy Richard Williamson's statements that claim the Sudanese government has been launching attacks on rebel movements in Darfur and that one of the attacks was made against Minnawi's movement." Al-Sadig went on to say "Williamson knows that these rebel movements in Darfur have hindered the movement of convoys transporting humanitarian aid in the region," and "if the government doesn't counter these attacks, it's not an effective government." (*Al-Sudani, Al-Ahdath*)

Al-Bashir and Mbeki to hold talks

The Sudanese President Omer Al-Bashir and his South African Counterpart Thabo Mbeki are scheduled to start talks in Khartoum today. The talks will focus on "means of boosting cooperation in various fields" as well as "finding a peaceful solution for the Darfur issue and means of refuting the International Criminal Court's allegations against President Al-Bashir." (*Al-Sudani, Al-Rai-Al-Aam, Ajas Al-Hurria*)

SPLM Secretary General relieved

President Omer Al-Bashir issued a decree yesterday that relieved Pagan Amum, Secretary-General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), of his position as Minister of Cabinet Affairs. In his place, Costa Manyebi, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, has taken the position. The decree also involved a ministerial reshuffle of some SPLM posts. (*Al-Ayam, Al-Watan, Al-Khartoum, et al*)

Taha leads Sudanese delegation to New York

Ali Osman Mohammed Taha, Vice President of the Republic of Sudan, will lead the Sudanese delegation for the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly, scheduled to be held in New York next week. An "informed official" told reporters that Taha will also take part in the meetings of the African Peace and Security Council, to be held on the sidelines of the UN meetings. The source added that Taha will deliver an address before the council, which will involve "developments in Sudan, the initiative of the people of Sudan with regards to the Darfur issue, and the Sudanese government's efforts to realize comprehensive peace in Sudan." (*Al-Sahafa, Al-Khartoum, Al-Rai-Al-Aam*)

GOSS estimates costs for elections

The Government of the South of Sudan has estimated the cost for the 2009 elections at USD 150 million. The report, which collected logistical data about the upcoming election, revealed that general awareness of the electoral process in southern Sudan was "very poor." (*Al-Sahafa*)

Moon welcomes Darfur Ministerial Committee

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the formation of a ministerial committee on Darfur co-chaired by the Qatari Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, the Arab League Secretary General, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. The Committee will work in close cooperation with the UN-AU chief mediator for Darfur. (SUNA)

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.