



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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## **Mubarak visits Khartoum and Juba today**

Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian president has arrived in Khartoum today to meet with his Sudanese counterpart President Al-Bashir. Mubarak is also scheduled to visit Juba to meet with Salva Kirr, President of the Government of Southern Sudan. (*Akhbar Al-Youm*)

## **NCP rejects JEM proposal for separate peace talks**

The Sudanese government has turned down a demand by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) for one-on-one talks to end the ongoing conflict in Darfur. Qutbi Al-Mahdi, a National Congress Party (NCP) official, stated that the “the Sudanese government rejected such negotiations because they have not proved to be fruitful.” Meanwhile, last week JEM told Qatari officials during their meetings on the Chadian border that they would “not participate in the Doha talks” if their conditions were not met by the Sudanese government. (*Ajras-Al-Hurria, Al-Intibaha*)

## **Sudan seeks normalized ties with the U.S**

Presidential Advisor Mustafa Ismail announced in a press conference yesterday that the Sudanese government hopes to normalize ties with the new U.S. administration. Ismail said the Sudanese government would “welcome any step” on the part of the U.S. to “normalize relations with Sudan.” He added that the Sudanese government “hopes the new administration does not acquire the same stance as the previous administration.” (*Al-Intibaha*)

## **Sudan and Egypt “monopolizing Nile waters”**

Kenya has accused Sudan and Egypt of “monopolizing Nile water resources” after Sudan

and Egypt refused to endorse amendments to the Nile Water Basin agreement. According to the original agreement between the U.K., Sudan, and Egypt, both Sudan and Egypt hold the right to utilize 100 percent of the Nile. The agreement prohibits Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan, and Ethiopia from implementing projects utilizing Nile water without permission from Egypt. (*Al-Intibaha*)

## **South-South dialogue for southerners only**

The Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) justified its position for excluding the National Congress Party (NCP) from the South-South dialogue conference currently being held by saying that the dialogue was “meant to unify southern ranks,” stating that NCP was “not a southern political party.” (*Ajras Al-Hurria, Al-Intibaha*)

## **Why is the NCP keen for the elections in Sudan?**

A commentary on *Sudantribune.com* by El-Tahir El-faki, a spokesperson for JEM’s Legislative Council, speculates that NCP is “very keen on concluding the 2009 national elections” because they expect to collect over 50% of the Darfuri votes in support of Al-Bashir. El-Faki argues that Al-Bashir will seek reelection as a weapon against the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor Moreno-Ocampo to demonstrate that he has the support of all Sudanese, Darfuris included. Concluded El-faki, “since the NCP is well-known for its mastery of rigging elections all through the last two decades, it will spare no effort to insure a favorable outcome irrespective of voting.”

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