



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



<http://sudan.usembassy.gov/>

December 1, 2008

Al-Bashir: “Progress” in France’s position

Sudanese President Al-Bashir has said that he senses a “positive development” on the French position toward the International Criminal Court (ICC) issue, but cautioned that “no agreement has been reached yet.” Khartoum has been urging Paris to support Sudan in deferring the possible indictment of Al-Bashir by the International Criminal Court (ICC). President Al-Bashir and French President Sarkozy met recently on the sidelines of the UN summit in Doha. (*Al-Khartoum*)

France promises to pressure SLM for peace talks

President Al-Bashir told the *Sudan News Agency* that France had “promised to pressure the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) leader, Abdulwahid Nur, to request him to attend peace talks.” President Sarkozy has “pledged his support to Khartoum” during a private meeting with the Sudanese President in Doha. President Al-Bashir also said “France’s position is firm and would not allow any evasion on the part of Abdel-Wahid Nur.” (*Ajras Al-Hurria*)

Nafie downplays call to postpone the elections

Sudanese Presidential Advisor and leading member of the National Congress Party (NCP) Nafie Ali Nafie “slammed” calls by other political parties to postpone the elections next year. He accused other political parties of trying to postpone the elections “in order to form a broad coalition government.” Addressing students at the University of Khartoum, Nafie said that some of these parties were “trying to postpone the elections in order to end the legitimate tenure of the present regime.” “The Ingaz [salvation] government will stay in power even if

elections were delayed for a century,” he challenged. (*Al-Khartoum, Al Wifaq*)

UN: “JEM must stop politicizing IDPs”

John Holmes, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator and Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, accused the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) of “politicizing” the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps and providing them with arms to serve the movement. Holmes also said that “the situation in Darfur is becoming even more dangerous” and called for “rapid progress towards a political settlement.” (*Al-Sahafa, Al-Ahdath*)

Khartoum and Juba connected by road

A road linking Khartoum and Juba is now complete, ending the separation that began after both towns were cut off by decades of war between the North and the South. Vehicles can now travel by land from Khartoum to Juba through Unity State. Officials of the Government of Southern Sudan hailed the opening of the road as “one of the greatest results of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.” (*Khartoum Monitor*)

China grants US \$3 million for North-South unity

The Chinese government has extended a grant of US\$ 3 million to Sudan for “strengthening North-South unity.” The donation comes in the framework of the partnership “between the Chinese and the Sudanese people.” (*Sudantribune.com*)

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