



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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October 5, 2009

Austrian Envoy discusses CPA and other issues

-The State Minister for Foreign Affairs Al-Samani Al-Wasila, met yesterday with Austrian Envoy George Leng to discuss the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and possible ways for resolving the crisis in Darfur. Following the meeting, the Austrian Envoy told reporters he believed that there "is still a chance to normalize the Sudanese/Chadian relationship." (*Sudan News Agency*)

-The Austrian Envoy confirmed Chad's readiness to resume negotiations with Sudan and called for the re-activation of the 2008 Dakar Agreement. The Dakar Agreement was signed by Sudan and Chad to control armed rebel movements in both countries. Leng added that the objectives of the visit were to look into issues related to the implementation of the CPA and Darfur. The Austrian official disclosed that his five-day tour in Sudan would involve a visit to Al-Fasher and Juba to meet with a number of government officials. (*Sudan Vision, Ajas Al-Hurria, Al-Ahdath*)

Rumors of possible Vice-President replacement

An article posted on Paris-based Sudantribune.com alleged that Sudanese President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir may be relieving second Vice-President Ali Osman Taha from his position. London-based Al-Sharq Al-Awsat cited an unidentified source from the National Congress Party (NCP) indicating Al-Bashir had already named three possible candidates from Darfur. An ongoing conflict between Al-Bashir and Taha was confirmed by the Assistant Secretary General of the Popular Congress Party Ali Al-Hag who told reporters that this conflict may trigger Taha's replacement. The article also indicated there were widespread rumors in

Khartoum that Al-Bashir suspected Salah Gosh (Former Intelligence and Security Chief) and Taha of planning to "oust" him from power. (*Sudantribune.com*)

GoS: Special Envoy's position consistent

Amin Hassan Omer, an official of the Government of Sudan (GoS), described U.S. Special Envoy Scott Gration's position on Darfur as "being consistent, fair, and uncontradictory." However, in another interview Omer was quoted as saying that the U.S. position on Sudan was "somewhat ambiguous and that the U.S. government has not formulated a clear policy on either the issue of South Sudan or on Darfur." (*Sudan Vision*)

Security Law to be reviewed before parliament

The National Assembly will convene today to discuss a number of bills that pertain to the National Security Act and the Referendum. Parliamentary members from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) warned the National Assembly not to "mechanically" vote for the National Security Act without carefully reviewing the fine print. SPLM parliamentary members Yasir Arman and Atim Garang argued that the current National Security Act contains some discrepancies with regard to stipulations governing provisions within the Act. (*Al-Wifag*)

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.