



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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-NCP calls off plan to run for GOSS Presidency -NCP will not compete against GONU candidates

The National Congress Party (NCP) officially announced that it would not compete against any candidates from other political parties who are members of the Government of National Unity (GoNU). NCP leader Kamal Al-Obeid announced that the NCP would withdraw its candidates from all constituencies where NCP are running against GoNU candidates. NCP conveyed this to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and informed them that the NCP would not compete for the GOSS presidency. (*Sudan Vision, Al-Akhbar, MirayaFM*)

Darfuri factions eager to achieve peace

Qatari State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ahmed bin Abdalla Al-Mahmoud asserted that the Doha peace mediators unanimously confirmed the desire of the Darfur armed factions to achieve peace in Darfur. Peace mediators based this assessment on consultations held with the armed factions. Al-Mahmoud called this an "encouraging sign." (*Sudan Vision*)

URF Abu Garda arrives in Doha for peace talks

Head of the United Resistance Front (URF), Bahar Idris Abu Garda, arrived in Doha today to participate in initial planning for peace talks aimed at unifying the Darfur armed factions. Abu Garda told reporters that undefined proposals by the peace mediators were causing a conflict in the perspectives of different Darfur factions. (*MirayaFM*)

Al-Mahdi requests presidential election debate

Al-Sadig Al-Mahdi, Umma Party leader and presidential candidate for the April upcoming

election in Sudan, requested to engage in a live televised presidential election debate versus NCP candidate, current Sudanese President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir as well as other political party nominees running for the presidency. Al-Mahdi states that this will assist the Sudanese public in deciding for themselves the most eligible candidate for the position. (*Al-Akhbar*)

Khartoum: Rice should "drop outmoded convictions"

--The Government of Sudan (GoS) downplayed allegations by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice during a briefing on Sudan at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) where she accused the GoS of delivering arms to Southern Sudan to fuel tribal conflicts in the region. "It is actually U.S.-manufactured arms that have caused destruction and ignited conflicts worldwide," said the Spokesperson for the Sudanese Foreign Ministry Moawia Osman Khalid. The Ministry official stated that Rice "should stop resorting to her old attitude towards Sudan; neither should she launch groundless allegations that jeopardize Sudan's peace and stability." Khalid stressed that unless Rice "drops her outmoded convictions, the U.S. cannot be a serious partner in effecting real peace in Sudan." (*Sudan Vision, Al-Gowat Al-Muslha*)

-- *Al-Midan* reported that Ambassador Rice had expressed doubts that credible elections would be held in Sudan, demanding that the U.S. Administration should closely observe the situation in Sudan to ensure comprehensive peace in Sudan.

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.