



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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January 31, 2010

AU Summit begins today in Addis Ababa

An ordinary session of the African Union begins in Addis Ababa today under the title Information and Communication Technologies in Africa: Challenges and Spheres of Development. Sudan's delegation is headed by Sudanese President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir who will also meet with UN officials and African heads of states. Meetings are to occur within the framework of a special consultation on Sudan being prior to the commencement of the summit. Al-Bashir will meet with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon for the first time since the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant against him March 4, 2009. According to a report by state-run Sudan News Agency (SUNA), Al-Bashir will meet separately with the President of the Republic of Malawi and Ethiopian Prime Minister Zeles Zinawi to discuss bilateral relations and the summit's agenda. (*Sudan News Agency, Al-Akhar, Al-Ayam*)

Taha meets with Kiir in Juba to discuss CPA

Sudanese Vice-President Ali Osman Mohammed Taha travelled to Juba today to meet with first Vice-President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) Salva Kiir Mayardit in order to discuss the outstanding issues remaining for full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). (*Al-Ayam*)

NEC rejects 3 of 13 presidential candidates

Sudan's National Elections Commission (NEC) announced today it endorsed ten out of thirteen applications for the presidency position. The three candidates who were eliminated did not meet the requirements stipulated in the Electoral Act. Official presidential candidates include Omer Hassan Al-Bashir (National Congress Party), Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi (Umma Party), Hatem Al-Sir (Democratic

Liberation Movement), Abdullah Deng Nhial (Popular Congress Party), Mohamed Ibrahim Nugud (Sudanese Communist Party), Mubarak Al-Fadil (Umma Reform and Renewal Party), Abdel-Aziz Khalid (Sudan Alliance Forces), Kamil Al-Tayib Idriss (Independent), Ahmed Goha (Independent). The disqualified candidates are Munir Sheik Al-Deen (New National Democratic Party), Fatima Abdel-Mahmood (Socialist Democratic Union), and Abdullah Aki Ibrahim (Independent). NEC board member Al-Hadi Mohamed Ahmed said that the three candidates have seven days within which to appeal the decision in the Supreme Court. Abdel-Mahmood was quoted by Reuters as saying, "her party would appeal through the Supreme Court." She characterized her elimination as "discrimination." (*Sudantribune.com, Al-Khartoum, Al-Ayam*)

Two Darfur rebel commanders expected to appear before ICC next week

Two Darfur rebel commanders charged with masterminding a 2007 attack on African Union (AU) peacekeepers in Darfur will voluntarily appear before the judges of the ICC next week. Although the names of the two rebels have not been disclosed, unnamed sources believe they are Abdallah Banda, a former JEM army general who now leads a Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) splinter group; and Saleh Jarbo, from the Sudan Liberation Movement/Unity faction (SLM/Unity). The same sources refused to say whether Banda and Jarbo had arrived in The Hague or whether they are en route. So far, only the leader of the Darfur United Resistance Front (URF), Bahr Idriss Abu Garda, has appeared before the ICC in The Hague in connection with the 2007 attack. (*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.