



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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March 18, 2008

Sudan, U.S. agree to rejuvenate dialogue

Discussions yesterday between Presidential Advisor Dr. Mustafa Osman and the Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. embassy in Khartoum, Alberto Fernandez, highlighted the outcomes of Dr. Osman's recent visit to the U.S. and visit to Khartoum by U.S. Special Envoy Richard Williamson. Both Dr. Osman and Chargé Fernandez stressed the importance of dialogue and visits by senior officials as ways to eliminate obstacles to the normalization of relations. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Preparations for population census complete

The head of the National Council for the Population and Housing Census, Bakri Hassan Saleh, told the Sudan News Agency Forum yesterday that preparations are complete for the census that will take place from April 15 to April 30 of this year. Saleh, who is also the Federal Minister for the Presidency, said there were "a few areas of insecurity in Darfur" but that "the census would go ahead." He said that census operations would have been postponed if "the prospects were good for a peace deal." Meanwhile, the head of the Central Bureau of Statistics revealed that they have requested that the Presidency of the Republic allow a committee travel to Abyei to collect the necessary statistics. (*Al-Khartoum*)

Lack of vehicles for the JIUs

Major General Bior Ajang, the spokesman for the Joint Integrated Units (JIUs), lamented the "acute shortage of motor vehicles" for the JIUs. He said that the vehicles are important for the fast movement of troops, especially in oil-producing regions. (*Al-Ayaam*)

Misseriya, Dinka to hold conference

Prominent members of the Misseriya and Dinka tribes report that preparations for a conference on peaceful co-existence between the two tribes have been completed. Tribal leaders say the conference is slated for March 31. (*Al-Ayaam*)

Government ready for separate talks with JEM

The Information Officer at the National Congress Party (NCP), Kamal Obeid, said that recent talks between his party and the opposition Umma and Popular Congress parties have spurred the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) to express wishes for separate talks with the government. Obeid, who is also the State Minister for Information and Communications, said that the government is willing to hold such talks with JEM leader Dr. Khalil Ibrahim. The JEM, however, said that its willingness to talk had "nothing to do with" the NCP talks. (*Al-Sahafa*)

Dababeen push towards Islamist unity

The Dababeen battalions (a paramilitary tankers' jihadi unit formed during the war years) are "pushing towards unity" of the "two sides of the Islamist conflict in Sudan." The Dababeen see unity of the Islamists as an "obligatory necessity in order to face the challenges of the times." They warn they will "bypass any leader who obstructs the aspirations of the grassroots towards unity." (*Alwan*)

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.