



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

## UNMIS

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **UN**

#### **UN threatens tougher measures to halt deterioration of the security situation in Darfur**

(*AlAyaam* – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The UN yesterday told the government, the SLM/A and JEM delegations in Abuja that it will take decisive actions to halt the deterioration in the security situation in Darfur if no peace deal is signed by end of March this year. The organisation has called on the parties to set a deadline for an end to the stalled talks in Abuja following the failed efforts to met the December 31<sup>st</sup> 2005 deadline set earlier.

Isamel-deen el-Haj, the Spokesperson for the SLM, said that SRSG Pronk held intensive talks in Abuja yesterday with the parties to the talks and in the presence of AU chief mediator Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim and discussed the deteriorating security situation in Darfur and the future of the alliances of the rebel forces. Also discussed were means to establish mechanisms to plug the loopholes in the N'djamena Ceasefire Agreement over which he accused the parties of lack of commitment.

The spokesperson also said that Pronk welcomed the transition of AMIS to a UN operation due to lack of funding and expressed regrets that the victims of the ceasefire violations are civilians. He pointed out that this fact shakes the credibility of the Abuja talks itself before the international community. He added that the SRS said however that the entry of UN forces into Darfur must be preceded by the signing of a peace agreement between the parties to the conflict there.

#### **UN urges Darfur foes not to export conflict into Chad**

(*Reuters* – 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Abuja**) The United Nations urged the warring parties from Sudan's Darfur region on Saturday to stop the conflict from spreading into neighbouring Chad, which has 200,000 Darfur refugees on its territory.

The top U.N. envoy in Sudan, Jan Pronk, also rebuked the parties for escalating fighting in Darfur, to the detriment of peace talks in the Nigerian capital Abuja between the Sudanese government and two rebel movements.

"You say there is some progress here, but there is regression on the ground. You must close the credibility gap between Abuja and Darfur," Pronk told the negotiators during a visit to Abuja, where the talks are in their seventh round.

Pronk described an increasingly chaotic situation in Darfur, where rival rebel factions, bandits, pro-government militias and unidentified gunmen kill, rape and loot with impunity.

He challenged those negotiating in Nigeria to show they had some degree of control in the field by quelling the violence.

In a clear reference to a flare-up of tension between Sudan and Chad that has compounded the chaos and violence in western Darfur, Pronk said he was concerned about the "internationalisation of the Darfur conflict".

"Don't make alliances with rebel movements in neighbouring countries. Abstain from receiving arms and troops from neighbouring countries," he urged the parties.

Chadian army deserters and other dissidents bent on toppling President Idriss Deby attacked the Chadian border town of Adre in December. Deby said the attack came from Sudanese territory and accused Khartoum of backing the Chadian rebels — a charge denied by the Sudanese government.

Since then, a new alliance between the JEM and one of the factions of the SLA has raised concern that an ethnically-based coalition is emerging in which Darfur rebels from the same tribe as Deby are siding with him, thus getting involved in Chad.

The SLA is split, with Minni Arcua Minnawi and Abdel Wahed Mohammed al-Nur both claiming leadership of the group. Minni is from the Zaghawa ethnic group — the same as the Chadian president — while Abdel Wahed is Fur.

The Minni faction of the SLA and the JEM, whose leader Khalil Ibrahim is also Zaghawa, announced on Jan. 20 they were merging. Some in the Abdel Wahed faction and other observers have interpreted this as a tribal alliance, although the groups involved say that is not the case.

At the same time, many of the Sudanese rebels are convinced that Khartoum is backing Chadian rebels to oust Deby, despite the government's repeated denials.

Some delegates in Abuja accuse Khartoum of exporting the Janjaweed militias that have fought in Darfur into Chadian territory.

The SRSB also disclosed that talks are ongoing at the UN to impose sanctions as per UNSC Resolution 1590 on violators of the ceasefire and those who hamper the peace process be they individuals or groups. He also called upon the parties to give due consideration to the Naivasha Agreement in the Abuja process and to allow for the participation of the civil society and tribes in the Darfur-Darfur talks.

On the other hand, Majzoub el-Khalifa who heads the government delegation in the Abuja talks said the talks are entering its final phases as all outstanding points pertaining to power and wealth sharing and security arrangements have already been discussed.

### **UN moves closer to takeover of Sudan's Darfur peacekeeping**

(AP/ST – 3<sup>RD</sup> Feb. **United Nations**) The Security Council authorized the United Nations on Friday to start planning for a U.N. takeover of peacekeeping duties in Sudan's conflict-wracked Darfur region from the African Union.

A council statement asked Secretary-General Kofi Annan "to initiate contingency planning without delay" with the AU on options for a possible transition to a U.N. operation. It said Annan and the AU should cooperate with Sudan's national unity government, the Security Council and key countries trying to promote peace in Darfur in the planning process.

"The purpose of today's presidential statement was to kick off contingency planning," said U.S. Ambassador John Bolton, the current council president. "And my instructions, and my intentions are very clear \_ which is to move as far and as fast as we can during the month of February."

The African Union has agreed in principle to transform its 7,000-strong peacekeeping force in Darfur into a U.N. peacekeeping force, a move supported by many council members including the United States.

If the U.N. doesn't take over, said Greece's U.N. Ambassador Adamantios Vassilakis, "it means we don't want peace in the area."

The council statement, which was approved unanimously, will enable the U.N. Secretariat to ask governments whether they might participate in a U.N. operation in Darfur, Bolton said.

Decades of low-level tribal clashes over land and water in the vast western Darfur region erupted into large-scale violence in early 2003 when ethnic African tribes took up arms, accusing the Arab-dominated central government of neglect.

The government is accused of unleashing Arab tribal militias to murder and rape civilians and lay waste to villages, but it denies the charge. An estimated 180,000 people have died in the upheaval — many from hunger and disease.

In Washington, Jendayi Frazer, who leads the State Department's Africa bureau, sidestepped questions about whether the Sudanese government is still committing genocide in Darfur, but reiterated that "the United States has said that a genocide has occurred in Sudan."

The Security Council statement reiterated "in the strongest terms the need for all parties in Darfur to end the violence and atrocities" and stressed the importance of urgently concluding peace talks in Abuja, Nigeria.

Bolton said it was premature to speculate on whether the United States or the European Union would contribute troops to a U.N. force in Darfur. He said U.S. planners will work very closely with U.N. planners to evaluate what's needed in Darfur, building on the AU's operation.

"It's a complicated and operationally logistically difficult mission," he said.

France's U.N. Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere said the council will closely monitor the U.N. planning.

In Washington, Kirsten Silverberg, who heads the State Department office responsible for U.N. matters, told reporters the United States envisions combining the AU force in Darfur with the 7,000 U.N. troops monitoring a separate peace agreement between southern rebels and the Sudanese government. She declined to predict the number of troops in the combined U.N. mission.

Silverberg said the United States anticipates a robust U.N. mandate that charges the new U.N. mission with monitoring cease-fire agreements, protecting civilians, and protecting humanitarian deliveries. She said other duties will include monitoring compliance with a Security Council arms embargo and military flight ban as well as human rights violations.

The Security Council said it looks forward to an early decision from the African Union Peace and Security Council on the AU force. It said contingency planning should make maximum use of the AU force and the U.N. mission in southern Sudan.

Last month, the AU council extended the AU force's mandate until March 31, authorized consultations with the U.N., and said a final decision would be taken by ministers at the end of March.

The AU force has made a significant difference where its troops have been deployed. But it has been hampered by a shortage of funds, troops, and equipment and its mandate has been limited to monitoring an April 2004 cease-fire that is regularly broken by all parties and offering limited protection to civilians.

In early January, the top U.N. envoy in Sudan, Jan Pronk, said efforts to bring peace to Darfur had failed and called for a U.N. peacekeeping force of up to 20,000 troops to disarm marauding militias and provide security so over 2 million refugees can return home.

Pronk told a German newspaper in late January he expects the United Nations to deploy a peacekeeping force in Darfur by early 2007 and said it would need a mandate of four years to disarm parties to the conflict. He also said he foresees sanctions for offenses against U.N. resolutions.

## **CPA**

### **200 killed in clashes between SPLA and SSDF in Jonglei State**

(*AlRai AlAam, Akhbar Alyaum* – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) SSDF commander Mjr. Gen. Gordon Kong says about 200 people were killed in clashes between SSDF and SPLA forces in Jonglei State following an attempt by SPLA to forcefully disarm the latter.

Kong who was speaking at the end of a training program organised by the DDR sub-committee of the Peoples' Forces in Khartoum said that the fighting broke out last Friday and is still continuing.

"The silence over the incident by the UN and its agencies operating in the area only mean they condone such an action" he accused. He warned that his forces will not stand by in silence as they see citizens being killed.

On the other hand, the Presidency of the Republic has demanded an explanation from the SPLA over the recent clashes in Jonglei State.

Dr. Salaf-el-deen Saleh who heads the Presidency's DDR Committee said the attempts by forces loyal to the SPLA to forcefully disarm the citizens in the south is a gross violation of the CPA that states that this should be carried out through a commission and following specific programs.

Also present at the graduation ceremony were UNMIS' Francis Kai-kai and the head of the Peoples' Forces.

## **Government of National Unity**

### **Sudan, Slovakia to hold meeting in Khartoum today**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) Slovenia's Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs starts talks today with officials in Khartoum over bilateral relations between the two countries and means to promote these relations and on Slovenia's development aid to Sudan.

The Slovene official is expected to hold talks with First Vice-president Kiir and officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **Sudan oil commission to hold meeting Monday**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The National Petroleum Commission is due to meet on Monday to review reports of the Ministers of Finance and Energy and Mining on the oil production in the past year and the current year 2006.

The oil commission is co-chaired by al-Beshir and the president of the southern Sudan government. It is to include equal numbers of representatives from both the national government and the southern government and oil producing states of Sudan.

The Commission is expected to treat the knotty question of the real amount of oil produced in Sudan. The northern oil minister puts oil production at around 330,000 barrels per day (bpd), but the SPLM says it could be as high as 450,000 bpd.

In a press statement after the meeting of the National Petroleum Commission Saturday at the premises of the Council of Ministers, the Minister of Finance, al-Zubair Ahmed al-Hassan, said that the Commission has set up a joint committee to discuss details related to its internal regulation and the coordination of work, in accordance with the Constitution and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, so as to be reviewed and approved in the coming meeting of the Commission on Monday.

The minister said that the Commission's meeting on Monday will review an agreement with a company from the Republic of South African for oil exploration in the Northern State.

Last week, the spokesperson for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, Radhia Achouri, said in a press conference that Pronk was not satisfied with the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), and especially with performance of the key institutions such as Petroleum Commission.

On 28 January, First Vice-President said in a press release held in Khartoum "We still have not got the real share of the oil revenues," adding there were differences over the amount of oil produced in Sudan.

### **Sudan's SPLM, NCP clash over security laws**

(*Reuters/ST* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) Sudan's former foes clashed on Thursday in their first diplomatic showdown since last year's peace deal over powers for security forces, who the U.N. human rights chief says operate in a "climate of impunity".

The peace accord ended Africa's longest civil war in southern Sudan and a coalition government was formed. But many southerners complain the north has been reluctant to implement the deal, especially in sharing out the nation's oil wealth.

The former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) threatened to take its northern partners to the constitutional court if they forced controversial presidential decrees, known as provisional orders, through parliament without consultation.

"Those provisional orders are violating the constitution and the peace agreement," Yasir Arman, the head of the SPLM's parliamentary bloc, told a news conference.

He said if no solution was reached the SPLM would vote against all the presidential decrees, issued before the coalition government was formed, and would take the matter to the constitutional court.

The laws include an armed forces act which allows any policeman to open fire at his own discretion and provides criminal immunity to officers in the armed forces when dealing with citizens, SPLM lawyer Ghazi Suleiman said.

U.N. human rights chief Louise Arbour urged Sudan last week to lift all immunity laws and said the security forces had unchecked and abusive powers.

Sudan was snubbed last month by its peers, who refused to allow President Omar Hassan al-Bashir to assume the helm of the African Union because of its human rights abuses in the western Darfur region.

Sudan's southern civil war claimed 2 million lives and forced more than 4 million from their homes. The 2005 peace deal does not cover the separate violence in Darfur, which the United States has branded genocide, a charge Khartoum denies.

The decrees also include a law governing the work of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Sudan, which would require them to put funds into bank accounts run by the government and allowed authorities to eject any NGO which publicly disagreed with government policy.

"These are just bad laws," said Suleiman. Under the deal the northern ruling National Congress Party (NCP) has 52 percent of government and the 450-seat legislative. The SPLM has 28 percent.

Presidential decrees cannot be amended by parliament and need only a 50 percent majority to pass. But Suleiman said the NCP could not use their majority to force the laws through.

"If so, the peace agreement would collapse," he said. "This is not a majority-minority government, it is a marriage and it needs partners," he added.

Suleiman said if the NCP forced through the laws, the SPLM would seek help from the international community and even the U.N. Security Council.

### **SPLM parliamentarians threaten boycott of Gezeera legislature**

(*AlAyaam* – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) SPLM members of the Gezeera State Legislative Council have threatened not to attend sessions unless their demands for a chairmanship of one sub-committee and vice-chairmanship of another are met.

One of the MPs in the state parliament told the press that these demands are legitimate and will enable them better carry out their duties of monitoring. She said that the MPs are due for an audience with the governor in the next two days or so and will boycott the sessions if their demands are not met.

### **Taha Receives Joint Report on CPA Implementation**

(*Sudan Vision* – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) Vice-President, Ali Osman Mohammad Taha, received a joint report on the CPA implementation and forming the Constitutional Institutions and National

Commission as stipulated in the agreement protocols and their performance since being signed.

During his meeting held at the Council of Ministers General Secretariat, the Vice-president was briefed by both State Ministers in the Presidency and chairmen of the Joint Political Committee, Sayed Idris Mohammad Abdel Gadir, and Telar Riny Deng, on the performance of the Joint Political Committee in accordance with the Presidency's Programme and approval, especially in respect to programmes and activities of enhancing and consolidating political partnership between the two major partners in the CPA.

### **Committees Formed to Study Issues on CPA Raised by First Vice-President**

(*Sudan Vision* – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The Minister of the Council of Ministers, Deng Alor, has disclosed that the action committees have been formed to study issues raised by the First Vice-President which are related to the progress of the implementation of the CPA.

The Minister, who received in his office yesterday the head of the Assessment Commission who submitted a report on the commencement of work on the commission and infrastructures, expressed the Commission's readiness to submit regular monthly reports to the Minister. The two reviewed in their meeting reactions made by the First Vice-President a recent press conference.

### **Group of political parties demand new strategy to resolve issues of the east and Darfur**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) Informed sources report that a group of parties allied to the National Congress party have expressed reserve over the manner in which the latter addresses the issues of Darfur, eastern Sudan and Abyei.

The sources report that influential persons in these parties have agreed on the need for a radial change in strategy and a shift from the AU to a UN operation and that the tensions in the east of the country have to be contained. The sources add that among the ideas brought forward is that President Bashir's earlier decision that Vice-president Taha be in charge of the Darfur portfolio be revisited based on Mr. Taha's experiences in the Naivasha talks while the eastern Sudan portfolio be headed by Vice-president Salva Kiir based on the SPLM's strong links with the rebels there.

### **Opposition figure lauds Sudanese government for tolerance**

(*SRS/ST* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. **Nairobi**) An opposition Communist Party member of the National Assembly in Khartoum has lauded the government for opening up and tolerating criticism.

Fatima Ahmad Ibrahim said she respects the government for opening up and giving members of parliament an environment to speak and criticise.

Speaking to Sudan Radio Service (SRS) in Nairobi, Kenya early this week, Ms Fatima Ahmad termed the government's tolerance of criticism as a way forward.

Fatima said "Though they are the ones who have the power, I respect them because they opened up - though not equally - but they have given us the opportunity to speak and to criticise them and this is a way forward."



Ms Ahmad was among the 26 women mps who came to Nairobi last week for a parliamentary caucus workshop.

As historical figure in Sudanese women movement, and as the first Sudanese elected woman parliamentarian in the 1960s, Fatima says she is pleased to contribute towards empowering young women parliamentarians, who have joined the assembly for the first time.

### **Sudan reacts to fresh threats by Darfur rebels**

(*Sudanese Radio/BBC* – 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The Sudanese interior minister, el-Zubeir Bashir Taha, has said police forces are ready to carry out their responsibility and constitutional duties to protect citizens and foil any attempt to attack Sudan.

In a press statement upon his arrival from Tunis last night after attending the 23rd session of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council meetings, el-Zubeir said the issue of armed groups in Khartoum would be resolved soon and [their threats] were regarded as a violation of the peace agreement.

Commenting on the threats by the Darfur rebels against the police forces, he said the rebel groups were continuously pursuing the most hideous terrorist activities.

### **Abuja talks**

### **Darfur/ Chad**

### **Britain Rejects Darfur Rebels' Intransigence**

(*Sudan Vision* – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The British Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, announces during a meeting he held with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Lam Akol, in London that Britain opposes Darfur rebels' attitude in Abuja peaceful talks.

The British Minister described the rebels as 'not serious to realize peace.' On his part, Dr. Akol urged the British government to use its influential position to pressure the rebels to change their attitude to a positive stand and stop the policy of buying time. Dr. Akol said that his government has been always adopting an approach for a peaceful resolution to the Darfur dispute. The Minister, however, referred to many rebel violations of the ceasefire agreement, even against AU forces. Dr. Akol reminded the British Minister that AU forces are doing their job in good manner but they lack funds and logistical supports.

### **Britain presents seven points initiative for peace in Sudan's Darfur**

(*Sudan Tribune* – 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. **London**) Britain presented to the Sudan a plan called "seven steps for establishing peace in Sudan" British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw gave this plan to his Sudanese counterpart who met yesterday in London.

According to the London based Asharq al-Awsat, one of the points in the British proposal is the Sudanese government's compliance with the clauses of the peace agreement and others are the disarmament of the Janjawid forces, the building of personal relations with the rebels' leaders, and the willingness to deploy UN forces in the country without the Sudanese government imposing any conditions on them.

Akol refrained from commenting on the recommendations, saying he did not see them before coming to the press conference. But he said: "We are a government of national unity and determined to work seriously to solve these problems we inherited from the past.

The road is open for progress." He added: "Our talks were positive and it is our duty to see that security prevails. We are willing to discuss any initiative in that direction."

Straw however expressed "the frustration that we feel because of the lack of progress in the peace process efforts in Abuja" where the warring forces are holding talks to reach a peace agreement in Darfur. Straw attributed the stalling of these efforts "to the lack of coherence by many of the rebel groups to be real partners in the talks with the government".

The two ministers discussed the possibility of sending international forces to Sudan but did not divulge the outcome of the talks. Akol said his country was waiting for the African Union's decision about the possibility of referring the matter to the United Nations and added: "The Union has not made a decision and our government is waiting for the issue to be set in motion." Asked whether his country prefers the dispatch of international peacekeeping forces, he answered: "We do not want to cross the bridge before we come to it."

### **Darfur force needs to extend to Chad - rights group**

(Reuters/ST – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Dakar**) An international peacekeeping force in Sudan's Darfur region needs to be extended to police the barren frontier with Chad and stop almost daily cross-border raids by militia groups, Human Rights Watch said on Sunday.

The U.S.-based watchdog said tens of thousands of people were now displaced within Chad because of frequent attacks by Sudanese and Chadian militias based in Darfur, sometimes with apparent Sudanese backing including helicopter gunships.

"Sudan's policy of arming militias and letting them loose is spilling over the border and civilians have no protection from their attacks, in Darfur or in Chad," Peter Takirambudde, Africa director for Human Rights Watch (HRW), said in a report.

HRW said the Chad side of the border had become more vulnerable to raids following an attack on the town of Adre in December by rebels opposed to Chad's President Idriss Deby.

"The attack on Adre prompted the Chadian government to redeploy its forces away from border villages south of the town, leaving large areas at the mercy of uniformed militiamen riding horses and camels," the report said.

The rights group said it had documented numerous cross-border attacks on eastern Chadian villages between the towns of Adre, Ade and Modoyna since early December.

In the region of Borota, south of Adre, 40 out of 85 villages had been attacked and abandoned by residents, with 16 civilians killed in the area in raids between Dec. 16 and Jan. 20 alone, the report said.

"Dozens of witnesses, who were interviewed separately, described the attackers as ethnic Arabs visibly different from the local population, wearing Sudanese army khakis and speaking Sudanese Arabic," HRW said.

"The (U.N.) Security Council must act at once to prevent more Chadian civilians from suffering the nightmare next door," the rights group said.

Darfur erupted into violence in early 2003 when African tribes took up arms, accusing the Arab-dominated government in Khartoum of neglect.

The government retaliated by arming Arab militia, known as Janjaweed, who began a campaign of murder, rape, arson and plunder and drove 2 million villagers into squalid camps. Khartoum denies responsibility.

The Security Council on Friday approved a first step in sending U.N. peacekeepers to Darfur by authorising U.N. officials to draw up a range of options for the operation.

The African Union, which has 7,000 monitors and soldiers in Darfur, has said it supports "in principle" joining or relinquishing its mission to the United Nations but will not take a final decision until late March.

### **Senegalese peacekeeper shot in east Chad**

(*Reuters/ST* – 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Ndjamena**) A Senegalese soldier from the African Union peacekeeping mission for Sudan's Darfur region has been seriously injured in eastern Chad after being shot by a Chadian soldier, Chad's foreign minister said on Saturday.

"Following an argument, a Chadian officer fired two bullets which seriously injured a Senegalese member of the ceasefire monitoring team for Darfur," Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmat Allam-Mi said in a statement.

The Senegalese soldier was receiving treatment at a French military base but was in a coma after the shooting, which took place in the eastern Chadian town of Abeche, where the injured soldier was based as part of the AU mission overseeing a ceasefire in the neighbouring Darfur region.

The Chadian officer was on the run, the minister said.

### **AU says no evidence Sudan backing Chadian rebels**

(*Reuters/ST* – 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) African forces operating in the violent Darfur region have no evidence to back Chadian accusations that Sudan is supporting Chadian insurgents on Sudanese soil, the head of the mission said on Thursday.

The African Union's special envoy in Sudan, Baba Gana Kingibe, said that Sudan had in fact taken steps to deter the Chadian guerrillas, many of whom took refuge in the west of Sudan, from attacking its eastern neighbour.

"We have no evidence of the Sudanese authorities supporting the Chadian rebels ... direct or indirect," he told reporters in Khartoum.

Chadian army deserters and other dissidents sworn to oust President Idriss Deby attacked the Chadian border town of Adre in December. Chad said the attack came from Sudanese territory and declared a "state of belligerence" with its neighbour.

Kingibe said the Chadian tensions had "further compounded" an already complex security situation in Darfur, where almost three years of conflict has killed tens of thousands and forced more than 2 million from their homes.

The AU has almost 7,000 troops monitoring a tenuous truce between non-Arab rebels and government forces in Darfur. The pan-African body is also mediating peace talks which have made little progress towards resolving the troubles.

Kingibe said that the Sudan government had told Chadian army deserters to disarm if they wanted asylum and on one occasion had handed confiscated arms over to the Chadian authorities.

Sudanese authorities arrested 20 Chadian rebels, including one leader, in Khartoum during an AU summit last month, but later released them. Sudan denies any support for the insurgents.

Many tribes span the long and porous Chad-Sudan border and Deby himself took power in an uprising he launched from Darfur in 1990.

## **GoSS/ Southern Sudan**

### **Other developments**

#### **International report on Garang's plane crash rules out possible conspiracy**

(*Sudan Vision* – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) International inquiry report on the late Dr. John Garang's plane crash, headed by American national expert in aviation safety, has ruled out possible conspiracy behind the crash of the plane.

He said the crash was mainly due to technical faults. He revealed that the plane was overload with fuel when it took off from Entebbe airport. Former ambassador to Uganda, Surag Al-Din Hamid who is also the rapporteur of the national investigation committee, said the black box showed many information about the circumstances of the incident. Hamid said investigation showed that Garang after Kampala was planning to go to Nairobi but he changed his mind in the last moment and decided to go to the south. Hamid said nobody knows why Garang decided to go immediately to New Site in the south.

#### **Leadership Office of the National Congress Party to hold emergency meeting**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Khartoum**) The Leadership Council of the National Congress party sits in an emergency meeting today to be chaired by President Bashir.

The talks on eastern Sudan (due to kick off next Tuesday) and contacts with the other political forces are the key issues to be discussed in the meeting.

On the other hand, Dr. Nafei Ali Nafei, a prominent member of the party, told journalists that the party's position on sending international forces to Darfur is very clear.

"Our view is that the AU is capable of carrying out its mandate in Darfur," he adds.