



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN  
UNMIS

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**(By Public Information Office)**

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# **HIGHLIGHTS:**

## **UN/ AMIS-UN Transition**

### **UN Secretary-General sends letter to President Bashir**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Agencies**) A spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General said yesterday that Secretary-General Annan told President Bashir in a letter that the UN wants the AU-UN transition to take place with close consultation and coordination with the Sudanese government.

Stephane Dujarric told the press in the daily press briefing yesterday that the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, will be coming to Sudan in the next few days to hold talks with officials at UNMIS, AMIS and the Sudan government and that he does not expect any problems with regards entry visas for Mr. Annabi.

### **UN ASG for Peacekeeping Operations in Addis for talks over Darfur**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Addis Ababa**) UN's Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations is in Addis Ababa for talks with the African Union over a transition of the AU mission in Darfur into a UN operation.

sources also report that AU Chief Mediator to Abuja, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, will leave for New York next Tuesday to present a report before the Security Council on the progress made so far in the talks in Abuja.

### **Sudan bars UN survey team from visiting Darfur**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Abuja**) Vice-President Taha reiterated the Sudan government's total rejection of an international peacekeeping forces in Khartoum, said el-Sammani el-Waseela, the state minister for foreign affairs, following separate meetings the V-p had with an EU delegation and a UK envoy.

Taha, he said, said that the efforts of the international community should be confined to the humanitarian and development domains and in supporting the efforts for peace.

The UN Security Council has issued a Presidential Statement recently saying that an assessment mission will be sent to Darfur to assess the requirements for a transition of the AMIS to a UN operation.

The Vice-President also pointed out that talk of such a transition sends negative signals at that will harm the advanced stage the negotiations have reached.

## **President Bashir reiterates rejections that no international forces will set foot in Darfur**

(*AlRai AlAam* – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) President Bashir has reiterated that no international troops will ever set foot in Darfur whatever the reason or motive.

Addressing the opening session of the fourth congress of the Sudan National Youths' Union in Khartoum yesterday, the President described such an international intervention as colonialism in the guise of human rights and is manifested in the form strange organisations.

He called upon Sudanese youths to work for progress in the country and stand firm against such targeting that the country faces.

The President added that the government does not want the youths to be fuel for internal conflicts or civil war and commended the union for its work.

On the other hand, the SPLM declared a boycott of the congress.

In a statement issued by the SPLM's Secretariat for Youths' and Students', the SPLM said that the Sudan National Youths' Union only represents youths loyal to the National Congress Party and called upon the President of the Republic to stop government support for this body.

## **Cambodian mine-clearing soldiers join UN mission in Sudan**

(*Xinhua/ST* 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Phnom Penh**) A group of 109 Cambodian soldiers will leave here on Saturday for Sudan to join the UN demining mission in Sudan.

A seeing-off ceremony was held Wednesday at the Council of Ministers presided over by Prime Minister Hun Sen.

"It is the first time in the history of Cambodia to take part in an international UN peacekeeping mission. This is our pride and the great honour for our military, nation and the people," the premier said.

He went on to say that "it is a humanitarianism mission, so it is our obligation to participate in the mission and play more and more important role in the regional and international affairs."

Twenty-six of the 135 soldiers, chosen from 1,080 military, were already in place in Sudan with 25 vehicles, 70 mine detectors and six trailers, as well as other different types of logistical equipment.

All the soldiers have received about 13 months of training subjects which include common military skills, de-mining skills, psychological education, international laws, war rules and regulations, tradition and culture of Sudan, and English language as well.

In Sudan, the Cambodian troops will focus on mine-clearing mission. Cambodia is one of the largest mine-affected areas in the world due to nearly three decades of civil war, with an estimated 4 million to 6 million of the hidden killers still buried in its soil.

## **Pakistani UN troops celebrate National Day in el-Damazeen (*probably old story*)**

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) Commander AbdulRazzaq told the *Khartoum Monitor* that the Pakistan Contingent in el-Damazeen celebrated “Pakistan Day” with national zeal and fervour.

He stated that the celebrations started with special prayers in the morning and was followed by dinner and a cultural show.

According to AbdulRazzaq, the dinner and cultural show was attended by notables from the state including the *wali*, four SAF personnel, government officials, UN staff and the Pakistani UNMOs.

23<sup>rd</sup> March is “Pakistan Day”, a landmark in their history when Pakistan became an independent state sixty years ago.

## **CPA**

### **Thirty two killed in clashes between Sudan’s SSDF militia factions**

(*Reuters/ST* 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Jalahak, southern Sudan**) Thirty-two people, including 17 civilians, have been killed in five days of fighting between members of a southern Sudanese militia group, local officials said on Wednesday.

The fighting was between two factions of the South Sudan Defence Forces (SSDF), which had fought alongside Sudanese government forces against the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) during a north-south civil war.

One SSDF faction joined SPLA forces and the other joined the government army after a peace deal signed last year stipulated armed groups had to join the army or the SPLA.

"The enemy militias attacked," local official Gatkoth Garhoth told Reuters by telephone, adding that 15 civilians and 15 fighters had been killed.

Garhoth said the fighting started in the area of Nasir in Upper Nile state, where he is a commissioner. Another official said on Wednesday the violence had spread to the nearby area of Ulang.

"There was fighting today and it is still continuing ... two women have been killed," said Gabriel Tut Kai, an official from Ulang.

Ulang and Nasir are both about 400 km (250 miles) north of Malakal town.

Regular government and SPLA forces did not take part in the fighting. The officials said the main body of government forces was in Malakal.

"We are not getting involved in this fighting but we will report it," said Mayik Samuel, a local SPLA commander.

Samuel said the fighting damaged the prospects for post-war development in the impoverished area and implementation of the peace deal, which makes provision for a referendum in the south on whether to breakaway from the rest of Sudan.

## **GoNU**

## **Bashir reiterates Sudan's ability to achieve peace in Darfur**

(*ST* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) President Omer Al-Bashir, has reiterated Sudan's ability to achieve a peaceful settlement to the issue of Darfur through negotiations in order to realize political and social stability in the region.

This came in an interview to the Saudi Al-Akhbariyah TV channel at the Friendship Hall here Wednesday.

During the interview, the president denounced the suspicious Western attempts to fuel and prolong the conflict in Darfur in order to realize special agenda.

The president further lauded the role being played by the Arab countries with respect to supporting peace and rehabilitation in Sudan as well as the contributions of the Arab financial funds with respect to the implementation of Marawi dam project.

In this connection, Al-Bashir appreciated the support of Saudi Arabia with respect to the enhancement of the peace process and the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which is going on in harmony as agreed on between the peace partners.

He said following the achievement of peace, Sudan is now preparing for the phase of rehabilitation and development as well as welfare for the Sudanese people.

Bashir further reviewed the achievements being accomplished in the regional arena despite pressures and blockade, referring to its recent hosting of the African and Arab summits.

## **Parliamentary defence committee to investigate reports of a foreign military presence in western Sudan**

(*AlAyaam* – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) The head of the defence committee at the National Assembly lamented the slow formation of the Joint Integrated Units in South Kordofan and said this has caused instability in that area as neither the SAF nor the SPLA has a presence there, he says.

He also said that the lack of border patrols in some remote areas in Darfur allows international forces to sneak in areas such as Atroun, Wadi Hoour and Jebel Kosou. He said that the committee will look into these reports about the illegal presence of foreign troops in those areas.

On the other hand, the deputy head of the SPLM caucus at the National Assembly warned that the continued airing of some television broadcasts designed in the war years must be stopped in order not to put an end to the ill feelings of the past.

She cited the television program *Fi Sahat el-Fida* (In the Battlefield) and the commemoration of the SAF victory at Mile 40 on the Juba-Yei road (also broadcasted program) as a case in point and said these programs must be stopped.

## **Minister of Health describes polio immunization campaign as an issue of national security**

(*Sudan Vision* – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) Health Minister Tabitha Boutrous warned at a press conference in Khartoum last Tuesday against jeopardising the health of Sudan's children by circulating allegations against the vaccine used in the campaign.

She said that the immunisation of Sudan's children amounts to an issue of national security and should not be compromised. She said the MoH will hold responsible those families that block the immunisation of their children against polio.

She said Sudan was polio-free for more than three years but the disease was drawn back here through neighbouring countries.

She hailed the efforts of the WHO, UNICER and civil society organisations that supported the campaign.

## **Darfur/ Abuja talks/ Chad**

### **AU top mediator in Darfur talks hopes for April deal**

(AFP/ST – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. Abuja) The African Union's chief mediator in the Sudanese peace talks said he hoped most of the basic issues in the conflict in Darfur in the west of the country would be resolved this month.

The talks, now in their seventh round in the Nigerian capital Abuja, have made little progress but both the United Nations and the AU are putting pressure on the parties to strike a deal by the end of this month, Salim Ahmed Salim said.

"I am going to do my utmost to ensure that we leave within that deadline. When we say we want to conclude by the end of April, I think what we have in mind basically is that most of the basic issues will be resolved. That's something we should be expecting," Salim told reporters.

"At some point long before the end of April, we would have presented some specific, comprehensive proposals to the parties, intended to achieve a comprehensive peace agreement," he said.

The AU chairman, Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso and his predecessor, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, last weekend met all the parties at the talks to push the process forward.

Salim said that he was "cautiously optimistic" that the talks had entered their final phase.

"I say 'cautiously' because at the end of the day, it is not me or the AU or the international partners that will bring peace to Darfur. It is the parties themselves. It is the government of Sudan and the movements that will negotiate among themselves," Salim said.

The Sudanese parties at the talks equally expressed cautious optimism that they could work within the April deadline and reach a deal on the outstanding issues.

Majzoub Al-Khalifa, agriculture minister and leader of the Khartoum delegation, said: "I think it is possible to reach a deal especially if all parties are committed to the words, advice and remarks of the leaders that there should be a concession from each party."

The leader of the Sudanese Liberation Movement (SLM), AbdulWahid Al-Nur, said there was a "strong will" on the part of the movements to reach a deal but urged the Sudanese government to manifest the same will.

"There is no way to play games or propaganda. If they address the outstanding issues clearly and answer our negotiating position, actually there will be peace immediately: otherwise there will be no peace," Al-Nur said.

"We have come to the stage of taking a decision. It is not a stage of negotiating details. Since we are at this stage, I think it is possible to have a better deal before the end of this month," said Ahmed Tugod, chief negotiator for the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), the second rebel movement.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol, reacting to news of the talks, said he expected a Darfur peace deal was possible by the end of April.

The timeframe set by the African Union "is a realistic platform for reaching a peace deal," he said at a press conference during a visit to the United Arab Emirates adding: "There is no certainty of peace before April 30, because it involves not only the government but also the armed groups."

### **Rebel advance puts Chad capital on alert**

*(Reuters/ST – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. N'Djamena)* Chad government troops reinforced the capital N'Djamena on Wednesday and embassies took security precautions in response to reports that rebels were moving closer to the city, residents and diplomats said.

Security sources, who asked not to be named, said a French military aircraft on a surveillance flight had spotted a rebel column at Massenya, 160 km (100 miles) southeast of the capital of the landlocked central African oil producer.

The rebels have vowed to try to oust President Idriss Deby before elections next month and their presence at Massenya would be the closest they had come to the capital since they launched a succession of hit-and-run attacks from the east on Sunday.

Although it was not clear that the reported rebel force intended to attack N'Djamena, embassies were activating contingency plans which included the possibility of evacuation.

France has around 1,200 troops in Chad under a military cooperation accord and France's RFI radio said these were on standby to help with an evacuation of foreigners if necessary.

"We're in a heightened security position," one diplomat in N'Djamena, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

A government tank was deployed at the main entrance to the presidential palace and military checkpoints were set up in some areas. "There are a lot of military here ... more than normal," the diplomat said.

Security sources said while the rebel column closest to N'Djamena might not be strong enough by itself to threaten the city, there was a risk of an uprising or mutiny in the Chadian army which has been weakened by desertions since last year.

Deby's government said last month it foiled a plot to assassinate him and arrested 100 officers and soldiers it said were involved.

There was no panic in N'Djamena and traffic was circulating but some residents stayed at home. The mobile phone network was cut off, as had occurred during last month's foiled coup plot.

Rebels of the United Front for Democratic Change (FUC) have carried out attacks in the south, southeast and centre-south of the country in recent days as part of a military campaign to disrupt the presidential election planned for May 3.

The rebel raids have raised questions over whether Deby's government can hold the polls in which he is standing for re-election.

"It does look difficult," the diplomat said.

Deby's government describes the rebels as "mercenaries in the pay of Sudan" and accuses the Sudanese government of trying to destabilise its western neighbour by backing armed groups operating out of the conflict-torn Sudanese region of Darfur.

Khartoum denies this charge.

Chad's government said on Wednesday its army had regained control of Mongo, a town which rebels said they had attacked and occupied on Tuesday 400 km (250 miles) east of N'Djamena.

But the exact military situation at Mongo and nearby Bitkine remained confused, with one rebel leader saying his fighters still "controlled the zones" around the towns.

"Our objective is to liberate N'Djamena as quickly as possible, before the elections if we can," the FUC rebel leader, Abdoulaye Abdel Karim, told Reuters by satellite telephone. He said he was speaking from Chadian territory.

The assault on Mongo followed a series of rapid strikes in the last three days in which mobile columns of rebels travelling in pick-up trucks attacked government forces in the east, briefly occupying at least one village and a refugee camp.

In May's election, Deby, who won power in a 1990 military revolt from the east, will face four candidates with links to his government and is expected to win. The opposition is boycotting the polls.

United Nations relief agencies and other humanitarian groups are pulling some of their staff back from an eastern area threatened by rebel attacks, U.N. officials say.

### **Authorities in West Darfur say no Chadian rebels in the area**

(*AlSahafa* – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. **el-Geneina**) The head of the West Darfur Police said in a press statement yesterday that the regular forces in the state has fully cleared West Darfur State of the presence of Chadian armed opposition forces.

The move, says Mjr. Gen. Hashim Mohamed el-Sheikh, comes in line with the Tripoli Agreement.

On the police role in protecting IDP camps in the state, the police chief says that the local police is carrying out its role in protecting the IDPs and discouraging the brewing of local



alcohol. He also said that the police, alongside their counterparts from the AMIS, also send out teams to protect women on their way to fetch firewood.

### **SLM accuses government of arresting a prominent member**

(*Akhbar Alyauam* – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. **el-Fasher**) The SLM has issued a statement decrying the beating and subsequent arrest of their representative to the ceasefire joint committee.

The statement claims that Commander Adam Tor-el-Khala Abdel'Aal was beaten up by government security and intelligence on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2006 inside the AU base in el-Fasher and right under the very eyes of AMIS personnel and was then driven to an unknown location.

The SLM, in the statement, warned government against inflicting any harm on the commander and blamed the AMIS for standing by and doing nothing and for any other developments that may occur as a result of the incident should the commander not be released.

The governor of West Darfur said however that the SLM commander was not arrested.

He pointed out that the SAF had continuously requested AMIS to ask the rebel officers not to wear SAF uniform and insignia. What happened, he said, is that the commander in question has been roaming in the town and at the airport in SAF gear and when a SAF officer asked him his name in order to report the incident, he became rude and hit the officer who is still in hospital being treated for injuries. Some officers then quickly came in to contain the situation and the SLM commander was set free after about 30 minutes.

### **NATO considers support for AU mission in Darfur**

(*AFP/ST* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Brussels**) NATO began Wednesday sensitive discussions on a possible bolstering of its military presence in Sudan's violence-scarred Darfur region, in support of a beleaguered African Union peacekeeping mission.

Ambassadors of the 26-nation alliance "started talking" about different possible options presented by military planners, said a NATO spokesperson.

NATO is currently providing air transport to the 7 000 strong AU contingent in Darfur.

Speculation is that NATO could send several hundred specialist troops into Darfur, providing logistics and command support in the transition phase between an AU and United Nations force.

NATO chief Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, who has ruled out sending combat troops into Darfur, wants alliance governments to agree quickly but no timetable for a decision has been fixed.

### **UK, US call for sanctions against 4 Sudanese over Darfur**

(*AP/ST* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **United Nations**) The U.K. and the U.S. called for sanctions Wednesday against four Sudanese who have blocked peace efforts and violated human rights in the conflict-wracked Darfur region.

But Russia said it wants to study the list, warning that it could aggravate the fragile peace process.

Britain sent the list to the chairman of the Security Council committee in charge of sanctions against Sudan. Under council rules, if no country objects in 48 hours, the sanctions will take effect but because of the Easter Holiday the objection period has been extended until Monday.

Since freezing financial assets are involved, the U.K.'s U.N. Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry said, the names won't be disclosed until the sanctions take effect, hopefully on Monday.

If the sanctions are approved, they will be the first against any participants in the Darfur conflict, which has left about 180,000 dead over the last three years - most from disease and hunger - and displaced another 2 million from their homes.

A Security Council resolution adopted in March 2005 authorized an asset freeze and travel ban on individuals who defy peace efforts, violate international human rights law, or are responsible for military overflights in Darfur.

A U.N. panel that investigated the Darfur conflict recommended last year that 51 people be prosecuted for war crimes, including senior government officials. But until now, council members haven't been able to agree on any names to put on a U.N. sanctions list.

"What we're going to do today is the start of a process," Jones Parry said. "I join with .... the United States in putting forward today four names representing a balanced package."

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said the list is "really a down payment on what we expect will be additional sanctions."

"Our investigation and consideration of other possible individuals continues," he said.

Other council members, including Argentina, Denmark, France, Japan, Peru and Slovakia, also support the list, council diplomats said.

Decades of low-level tribal clashes over land and water in the 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 responding by unleashing Arab tribal militias known as Janjaweed to murder and rape civilians and lay waste to villages - a charge it denies.

Council diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity because the list has not been released, said the four names proposed for sanctions include one member of the Sudanese government, two rebel figures, and one member of the Janjaweed.

Seven rounds of peace talks in Abuja, Nigeria since August 2004 have yet to yield a breakthrough to end the fighting, but there is optimism that a new round which started Monday may yield results.

In a statement Tuesday, the Security Council demanded that the Sudanese government and rebels reach agreement by April 30 to end the conflict in Darfur and reaffirmed its determination to hold accountable those blocking peace and violating human rights. It stressed that "an inclusive political settlement is key to peace in Sudan."

When asked whether Moscow supports sanctions, Russia's U.N. Ambassador Andrey Denisov said: "Human rights abuses should be judged, it is clear."

"But at the same time, (the) political process should not be interrupted, and it is very fragile in Sudan, and any additional aggravations can play negative role in that process. So let's wait ... and see who's on that list," Denisov said.

## **Eastern Sudan**

### **Kassala State declares a general mobilisation against rebel forces**

(*AlSahafa* – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) The Government of Kassala State has declared a general mobilisation and has beefed up security at vital institutions following the recent attacks launched simultaneously by the Beja Congress and the JEM on Wagar, 100 kilometres from Kassala.

The state's health minister reports that 14 people were killed – 6 from the SAF and 8 civilians – and 4 SAF soldiers are being treated for injury.

The minister says the rebels destroyed Wagar hospital and the SudaTel offices and seized 2 trucks. The attack, he adds, also targeted the police and security offices.

The attackers, he added, used 17 Land Cruisers in the attack.

### **Beja Congress calls on the government to stop accusations and start dialogue**

(*AlAyaam* – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) In its first reactions to the government accusations that it was involved in the recent attack on Wagar and Tinei, eastern Sudan, the Beja Congress said that these are repeats of past accusations and do not serve the cause of eastern Sudan.

The Beja Secretariat [*not the one in exile*] called upon the government to stop such accusations and show good faith towards the east by expediting talks in order to avert a lapse in security.

A high rank member of the Beja Congress called for self-restraint and an end to violence.

### **Authorities in Port Sudan suspend humanitarian agency**

(*AlAyaam* – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Port Sudan**) The Humanitarian Aid Commission has ordered a suspension in the activities of a humanitarian agency concerned with women and child welfare and operating in Port Sudan on the grounds that its operations are illegal, sources say.

The HAC is said to have ordered the Sudanese French Bank to freeze the agency's accounts at the bank's Port Sudan branch.

Sources further add that the agency has appealed to the Minister of Social and Cultural Affairs, Red Sea State, for redress and has notified their EU sponsors of the developments.

## **Other Articles**

### **Sudan, Uganda differ over Garang crash report**

(*ST* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) The Ugandan government has officially notified Sudan of its reservations regarding some aspects of the final report by committee investigating the plane

crash which killed Dr John Garang late first vice-president and leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

According to the Arabic language Al-Ray al-Amm, Uganda hinted it proposed making amendments to the report a day before the report was adopted as the final report, but this was totally brushed aside by the national committee.

The national committee's rapporteur, Ambassador Siraj al-Din Hamid, said the committee delegation headed by the former vice-president, Abel Alier, would leave Khartoum today on a special plane to Juba to accompany two members of the committee to Entebbe Airport in Uganda.

According to Hamid they will arrive at three o'clock this afternoon to attend a joint meeting with the other teams with the aim of putting together the report in its final form.

Hamid said the Sudanese side had told Uganda it was satisfied with the reports in its current form and said its preparation was final and adopted. The Ugandan side had expressed desire to make some observations on the report.

The rapporteur stressed the national committee would not, under any circumstances, agree to make amendments to the report. He, however, noted that his committee would look into the Ugandan notes and find out whether it was crucial or not.

At the end of the meeting, Siraj-al-Din said a joint statement between Uganda and Sudan would be released which would reveal the results of the meeting, and confirm the closure of the probe dossier, especially given that the causes of the Garang plane crash had been known, namely natural causes as well as unqualified plane crew.

### **Turkey sends field hospital in Darfur**

(*ST* – 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Ankara, Turkey**) Turkey will open a field hospital in Darfur region of Sudan within the framework of assistance to Africa, Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Wednesday.

Releasing a statement, the ministry said two executives of the Turkish Red Crescent had gone to Sudan on 30 March to determine the needs of the region.

"Five C-130 cargo planes of the Turkish Air Forces will ship a fully-equipped field hospital to the region," the statement said.

The hospital has a 50-bed capacity and two operating rooms, the Turkish Anatolia news agency reported.

The statement recalled that Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan who had paid a visit to Sudan between 27-29 March and seen the tough living conditions of around 30,000 people in Otach refugee camp, ordered establishment of a field hospital in the region.

### **Editor-in-Chief of English daily is arrested**

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Khartoum**) Police yesterday arrested the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the *Khartoum Monitor*, Alfred Taban.

Taban, who also doubles up as the papers Editor-in-Chief, was charged with publishing false information and defamation over an editorial article which appeared earlier this month on the way the police treated Juba University students recently.

He was later released on personal surety.