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UNMIS Public Information Office, Juba

Juba, SUDAN, 8 August 2006: An explosion here Tuesday seriously injured a Bangladeshi corporal serving with the peacekeeping force of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). It appeared to have been caused when unexploded ordinance was triggered accidentally.

The blast took place shortly before 1640, across the road from the John Garang Memorial Tomb in Juba, where the Bangladeshi peacekeeping contingent was conducting a wreath-laying ceremony. The Bangladeshi Army's Chief of Staff, on a visit to Sudan, was in attendance.

The explosion apparently was caused not by a landmine but by unexploded ordinance, according to a preliminary determination by The United Nations Mine Action Service. It occurred as the soldier, an army driver, stepped toward a parked vehicle in order to enter it.

The soldier sustained severe injuries to his left arm and leg and was also hit by a splinter to his belly. He was taken to the Bangladeshi hospital and was being treated.

The vehicle was parked near some 20 other vehicles, some of which were damaged.

When an ammunition dump in Juba exploded last year, also an apparent accident, unexploded ordinance landed in many places nearby, possibly including the area across from the Garang Memorial. The U.N.'s Mine Action Service is investigating what kind of ordinance caused Tuesday's blast.