



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS

## Nashrat Al-Sabah



April 3, 2008

### U.S. Charge' visits Abyei

-- U.S. Charge' d'Affaires Alberto Fernandez said he toured the Abyei area yesterday and then held talks with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) representative for Abyei, Edward Lino. He said that he offered mediation between the National Congress Party (NCP) and the SPLM to help ease the deadlock over Abyei. (*Al-Sahafa, Al-Ahdath*)

-- Southern Sudanese officials told Reuters on April 1 that some 200 SAF soldiers arrived in Abyei on March 31. Malony Thong, deputy head of Abyei's SPLM administration, said that the forces were sent into Abyei to "escalate the security situation in the area." The SAF declined to comment on the report. Thong said the SPLM would use diplomatic means to get the forces to withdraw. (*Rai Al-Shaab*)

### Changes in army leadership

President Bashir has made changes to the leadership of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Sudan Armed Forces. The changes included the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, his deputy, the inspector-general, and a number of other senior officers in the army, the navy, and the air force. (*Al-Sahafa*)

### Sudan-Chad relations

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali Al-Sadiq said that Chad violated Sudanese air space on April 1 and bombarded a village near the borders. He said that Chadian rockets were also fired on SAF positions near the border. He said that Sudan reserves the right to respond when it deems appropriate. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon expressed concerns over reports of a buildup of Chadian rebel forces near the border. He called on the two countries to respect agreements they have signed. (*Al-Sahafa*)

-- Sudan says it will seek Interpol assistance to prosecute the Arche de Zoe' child abductors recently released by Chad. The Ministry of Social Welfare said one child returned from Chad has died at a camp in West Darfur. (*The Citizen*)

### Sudan calls for just trial of ICC Prosecutor

Sudan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador AbdelMahmoud AbdelHaleem, has called for a "just trial" for ICC Prosecutor Louis Ocampo for charges of "putting the political reconciliation process in Darfur in jeopardy." (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

### UNAMID concerns

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir, said there are UNAMID elements that seek to destroy the country. He called for a "national position to foil such plots." (*Al-Ayaam*)

-- The U.S. has called on the Secretary General of the UN to urgently deploy 3,600 more African peacekeepers to Darfur by June. In a letter to the UN, U.S. Special Envoy Richard Williamson pointed out that an increase in the number of peacekeepers in Darfur sends a ray of hope for an end to violence in that region. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

### Sudan acquits war crimes suspect

Sudan's Embassy in London confirmed on April 2 that Sudan authorities had freed Ali Kushayb, a militia leader indicted by the ICC. He has been in custody since November 2006, accused of war crimes, but he was released for lack of evidence. (*Khartoum Monitor*)

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.