



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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Presidency meets over Abyei, elections bill

Presidential Press Secretary Mahjoub Fadul Badri told the press that the April 1 meeting of the Presidency discussed progress in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), Abyei and the draft elections bill. The National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) will follow up on these discussions and on a report of the Joint Defense Board (JDB) in their next meeting, he said. *(Al-Rai Al-Aam)*

-- The NCP is suspending talks on Abyei until the SPLM dissolves its newly-formed administration there, said Al-Dirderi Mohamed Ahmed, a prominent member of the NCP. Meanwhile, SPLM Administrator for Abyei, Edward Lino, unveiled at a press conference in Abyei yesterday an emergency package aimed at improving the security situation in the region. He called on the nomads and farmers to go on with their activities without fear. *(Al-Khartoum)*

Concerns UNAMID may invoke Chapter VII

A paper presented at an ongoing workshop on "The foreign military presence and its effects on Sudan's future" expressed concerns that UNAMID may invoke Chapter VII of the UN Charter (Use of Force) to expand its military presence and mandate. The paper warned that UNAMID may seek legal grounds that would enable the arrest of Sudanese suspects summoned by the International Criminal Court. *(Al-Ayaam)*

Parliament deplores delay in bills

The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Atim Garang, has expressed concerns over the delay in passing important bills such as the bills on

elections, security, police and the press. He pointed out that these bills are important to convince citizens that democracy is restored. *(Al-Ayaam)*

We will help develop south, says U.S.

The U.S. has shifted its strategy in Sudan from emergency relief to development programs, said the U.S. Consul General in Juba on April 1. He said that the USAID budget for Sudan remains the largest in sub-Saharan Africa and has launched the construction of the 192 km Juba-Nimule road and the 186 km Tambura-Yambio road. *(The Citizen)*

SAF rebuffs accusations of raids on Darfur

A spokesman for the Sudan Armed Forces has rebuffed recent accusations by Suleiman Jamous, a prominent figure in the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), of government air raids on three areas in North Darfur. The spokesman said that the SAF has not participated in such a raid. *(Al-Ayaam)*

Chad renews accusation of Sudan

Chad said Sudanese-backed Chadian rebels attacked the town of Adei in eastern Chad yesterday. Sudan's armed forces have rebuffed the accusations. *(Al-Sudani)*

Inflation concerns

The Central Bureau of Statistics said that inflation rates have soared to 20.6% in March compared to 17.2% in February. The increase in prices is due to the unchecked rise in cost of essential consumer commodities. *(Al-Sahafa)*

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.