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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

## **Pakistani brigadier (UNMIS DFC) among two dead**

**BBC 22/10/09** - A Pakistani army brigadier (UNMIS Deputy Force Commander) and his driver have died in a shooting incident in the capital, Islamabad, police say. They were travelling in an army vehicle when it was attacked by gunmen. It is not clear who was responsible.

The attack comes as the Pakistani army continues its drive against Taliban bases in South Waziristan, near the border with Afghanistan. A wave of attacks on Pakistani cities has killed more than 180 people during the month of October alone.

Brigadier Moeenuddin and his driver Asghar have been killed in the attack which took place in the posh G-11 sector of Islamabad, the BBC's M Ilyas Khan reports from Islamabad. At least one soldier has been injured in the attack.

According to reports, the vehicle was riddled with bullets, its tyres punched out and windscreen shattered as army and police commandos cordoned off the area. Police say two men, both 18 to 20 years old, carried out the attack.

This is the second attack in Islamabad in the last three days.

On Tuesday, four people died and at least 18 were wounded in twin blasts at the International Islamic University.

## **Lawmakers endorse security bill in preliminary hearing**

Following a joint meeting yesterday of the Parliamentary Committees on Legislation and on Defence and Security, the chairman of the Defence and Security Committee, Jalal Tauer revealed that participants unanimously endorsed the general features of the draft National Security Bill against the background that it complies with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Interim National Constitution. The committees will submit their report to the National Assembly next week, **local dailies** report. Tauer pointed out that they do not rule out an SPLM participation in the deliberations but hinted on the possibilities that parliament may endorse the bill even with the absence of the SPLM and other blocs should the required quorum be attained.

The opposition National Democratic Alliance (NDA) parliamentary caucus has however requested that deliberations on the bill be kept on hold until the SPLM and the southern Sudanese parliamentary blocs return from their boycott of parliament, reports **Al-Ayyam**.

In a related development, lawmakers unanimously agreed that the security organs be granted full powers "especially against the backdrop of the situation through which the country is passing," **Al-Intibaha** reports.

## **Kiir and Nafei hold talks in Juba**

FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit played host to Nafei Ali Nafei, Assistant to the President of the Republic, in Juba yesterday, **local dailies** report. The two sides discussed issues pertaining to the implementation of the CPA. Nafei told the press in Juba that he also came to flag off the NCP's elections campaign in southern Sudan. **Al-Rai Al-Aam** quotes GoSS Presidency Minister Luka Biong as saying that FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit told GoSS leaders that he would work together with President Al-Bashir to strengthen their partnership. According to Biong, FVP Kiir reiterated the SPLM commitment to implement the CPA and not to return to war, adding that the US new policy toward Sudan would help to bolster the partnership to achieve peace in the country. "We are happy because the US strategy called for full implementation of the CPA

particularly the pending issues” Kiir said, adding that the strategy was based on accurate study and comprehensive assessment of the Sudanese situation, describing it as balanced.

Meanwhile Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie, in statements in Juba yesterday, said contacts were continuing between Khartoum and Washington to improve relations.

### **Misseriya killed, SAF injured in Southern Kordofan clashes**

Two Misseriya fighters were killed and three SAF officers including a brigadier were injured in clashes yesterday between the SAF and armed Misseriya tribesmen in Southern Kordofan, ***Al-Intibaha*** reports. The Misseriya tribesmen had reportedly blocked the main road connecting Mujlad to Higlig at Fama village for the last three days in protest over what they claim to be lack of commitment to an earlier agreement that the Nile Petroleum Company employ Misseriya youths in the nearby oil fields. Sources also say that the SAF commander for Higlig was among those injured as he led efforts to talk with the Misseriya.

### **VPs Machar and Taha fine-tune deal on referendum bill**

Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha and GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar are meeting to finalise details of the referendum agreement reached last week, ***The Citizen*** reports.

The co-chairs of the NCP, SPLM Joint Political Executive Committee agreed last week made progress in discussions over the draft referendum bill and agreed last Tuesday evening to start working on the Abyei Referendum bill and the Popular Consultation bill. The two also discussed a proposal over that would resolve the deadlock over the census results and on elections.

The two now have to return to their respective parties for final consultations over these issues.

### **Civilians flee Yirol County following clashes**

The SPLA and the Akod tribe clashed in Yirol County, Lakes State, yesterday leading to a total evacuation of the town, ***Al-Intibaha*** reports. County Commissioner Agok Mayak refused the orders of the SPLA area commander to forcefully disarm the tribe. Sources report that the situation was still tense yesterday evening.

### **Diplomats want Paulino Matip’s forces integrated in the regular forces**

Diplomats want Paulino Matip’s forces intergrated in the regular forces rather than roaming around, reports ***The Citizen***.

Diplomats resident in southern Sudan and representing about nineteen countries gathered at the Ministry of Presidential Affairs in Juba last Tuesday to be briefed on the seuciryt and political developments in the country. They said they were concerned with the insecurity that the conitnued presence of Matip’s forces poses in Juba. They inquired about the measures being put in place to curb insecurity.

GoSS Interior Gier Chuang told the diplomats that these forces ill be integrated under one command. He also pointed out that Matip is still committed to the Juba Declaration signed with the SPLA.

### **GoSS Security forces monitoring build-up of SPLM-DC forces**

GoSS Interior Ministry Gier Chuang has said that security forces are monitoring a build-up by SPLM-DC militia groups in Malakal, ***The Citizen***.

Addressing diplomats in Juba last Tuesday, Gier told diplomats that the CPA has no room for party militants. He pointed out that this is an attempt to disrupt the smooth implementation of the CPA and would cause instability in southern Sudan.

## Security committee set up to help end conflicts in the Abyei Area

Abyei and the neighbouring states of Warrap, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal, Unity and Southern Kordofan have formed a joint security committee in Abyei town to help end the conflicts over boundaries, *The Citizen* reports.

Abyei Area Chief Administrator Arop Moyak also reports that the border demarcation committee is facing real problems in its work due to tribal issues. He said he had requested the Presidency of the Republic to approve a judiciary body for the area to no avail but added that they will seek approval for the same from the GoSS.

## Southern Sudan mysterious disease was a rumour - officials

*Sudantribune.com* Juba, 21/10/09 – The GoSS health ministry officials say there is no evidence to support reports about an Ebola outbreak in the region. The officials said the mysterious disease was just a rumor.

The GoSS ministry had earlier sent a medical team to the remote village of Kitkit in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State where 23 people reportedly died from a mysterious illness suspected to be Ebola.

"Our team went there and they did not find any cases ... They did not find any deaths as was reported ... They concluded there was no Ebola," said Atem Nathan the ministry official charged with investigating the outbreak.

"It is the lack of services that turns into these rumours," he said, adding that during the Sudan's long north-south civil war, communities sometimes made up outbreaks to attract humanitarian assistance to their areas.

South Sudan's army spokesperson said they reached the same conclusion, after investigating the case there.

"It seems that the report by both the local county administration and the SPLA command about the deaths of the 23 soldiers was something to draw attention ... to the acute lack of medicine in Raja County," said SPLA spokesman Kuol Diem Kuol.

"They have succeeded. Now medicines are being taken there." He further said.

## Opposition calls for "political revolution" to defeat the NCP

Leaders of the opposition political parties, addressing farmers union general conference in Al-Gezira yesterday, called for a peaceful political revolution to defeat the ruling NCP in the upcoming elections, reiterating their threat to boycott elections if restrictive laws are not amended, *local dailies* report. The conference was addressed by leaders of political parties including Umma Party leader Sadiq Al-Mahdi and PCP leader Hassan Al-Turabi.

Meanwhile, the NCP has slammed the political parties which took part in the recent Juba conference, saying they are implementing a foreign agenda intended to disrupt elections, citing recent FVP Kiir's visit to a number of African countries as part of a western scenario to delay elections. The remarks were made by NCP official Mohamed Mandour Al-Mahdi at a symposium on elections yesterday.

## Kiir to visit Egypt Sunday

*Al-Sahafa* reports Sudanese Ambassador to Egypt Abdul Rahman Sir Al-Khatim as saying that FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit will visit Cairo on Sunday for consultations with Egyptian President

Hosni Mubarak on the Sudanese situation. During his three-day visit, Kiir will also meet with the Egyptian Foreign Minister and chief of intelligence.

### **Cargo plane crashes in UAE killing crew**

**Local dailies** report that a Sudanese cargo plane owned by Azza Company crashed yesterday shortly after take off from Sharja Airport (UAE).

All six crew members were killed.

### **Egypt's air marshals foil plane hijack attempt by Sudanese passenger**

**Sudantribune.com** Cairo, 21/10/09 – Two air marshals overpowered a man armed with a plastic food knife during a flight from Istanbul to Cairo on Wednesday night, Egyptian media reported.

According to the reports a Sudanese passenger on board the Egypt Air flight pulled out the knife at a female attendant, minutes after takeoff saying he wants the flights diverted to Jerusalem “to liberate it”.

Egyptian security sources said that air marshals “easily” got a grip of the hijacker adding that he later turned out to be intoxicated. The Sudanese passenger was identified as 28 years old man working as a sales representatives named Mohamed Hamad but holding a forged passport under the name Mus'ab Ibrahim Khogali.

Some passengers have said that Hamad was speaking of “Israeli actions in Al-Aqsa Holy mosque”.

The flight continued afterwards and the 87 passengers on board continued to their destination unharmed. The man was immediately taken into custody by Egyptian law enforcement.

The head of security at Egypt Air airlines Esam Gamal Al-Deen said that the air marshals will receive a remarkk for “their performance on board the plane and controlling the passenger in a matter of one minute and securing the flight and passengers until it safely arrived”.

### **Reporters protest security searches in parliament**

Reporters covering parliamentary business yesterday handed parliament a memorandum protesting “harassment by some security personnel” that have carried out detailed search of reporters wishing to enter parliament, **Ajras Al-Hurriya** reports. The reporters said that even ladies' handbags were not spared from the search. The reporters also claim that some of their colleagues were turned away on the grounds that they had to bring requests for entrance in parliament from their respective media outlets. In their memorandum, the reporters have threatened to boycott coverage of parliamentary affairs if such conduct is not checked.

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