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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

Mass polio campaign launched in southern Sudan

(*Juba Post*) The GoSS health ministry has declared the period between 6 – 9 November as polio immunization days in all states of southern Sudan despite ongoing insecurity in Juba and Jonglei states.

In a press briefing over the weekend, WHO Polio Eradication Coordinator for Southern Sudan, Dr. Aferok Assefa, said the campaign, the third this year, is supported by the WHO, UNICEF and other partners and is part of a synchronised campaign in Sudan.

The head of UNICEF, Ted Chaiban, added that 1,700 personnel will be deployed in all areas of southern Sudan to supervise the work of vaccinators and about 200 independent monitors will monitor and evaluate the campaigns in selected representative areas.

Affected families may sue polio vaccination teams

(*AlSudani*) Reports say that children adversely affected by the ongoing polio vaccination campaign have risen to 13 cases, most of them in Omdurman and some cases in el-Gadharef State.

Side effects included brain tumours and problems in breathing.

A vaccination team in Omdurman was immediately stopped from continuing its work following reports that some of the children were given over doses of the vaccine and others were under the age required to take the vaccine.

Families of the children affected plan to institute legal measures against the Ministry of Health for sending untrained vaccination personnel.

The WHO had assured the public that the vaccines were safe to use and that the problems caused were mainly caused by side effects of serving the vaccine to underage children and that these side effects normally subside within some hours.

United Nations and the Transitional Debate

Hedi Annabi in Khartoum to follow up on implementation of the Bashir, Konaré, Annan agreement

(*AlSahafa*) Hedi Annabi, ASG for Peace Keeping Operations, is expected in Khartoum today to discuss UN technical and logistic support to the African Union mission in Darfur.

The head of the Directorate for Peace at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Annabi has been delegated by Secretary-General Annan to follow up on the implementation of the support package from the UN to the African Union and to hold discussions on the issue with the authorities in the Sudan and UN and African Union representatives.

He said that the Sudan values cooperation with the UN on the issue of logistic, technical and advisory support to the African Union mission in Darfur.

Foreign ministry in talks with African Union Peace & Security Council Commissioner

Rai AlShaab: Funding for the African Union, bringing the DPA non-signatories on board, the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and bolstering the African Union's capacities were the main issues discussed yesterday in a meeting at the foreign ministry between State Minister AlSammani and African Union Peace & Security Council Commissioner Saeed Djinnit.

Mr. Djinnit has asked government to urge Arab states to make meet their pledges of support for the African Union force in Darfur.

He also said that contacts are underway with the Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory groups in a bid to bring them on board but expressed concern over the situation along the Sudan-Chad border.

On the other hand, foreign ministry spokesperson, Ali el-Sadiq, said that the foreign ministry assured Mr. Djinnit of Sudan's confidence in the African Union and its ability to keep the peace and stability in Darfur and urged the African Union to continue its work in Darfur.

He said that the ministry also told Djinnit of the activities of the NRF and of the "negative role the international community has played" concerning this issue.

** Please see related Press Release from the African Union attached separately*

UN urged to help contain Darfur spillover

(*Reuters* – 9th Nov. **Dakar**) Sudan's Darfur conflict risks mushrooming into a region-wide crisis and the U.N. should consider intervening in Chad and Central African Republic to contain the spillover, analysts and humanitarian groups say.

"It's clearly what we've been complaining about for months, the war spilling over into Chad, the same crazy dynamic taking root there," Olivier Bercault, a Chad expert with Human Rights Watch, told Reuters.

The leaders of Chad and Central African Republic blame Sudan's Arab-led government, accusing it of "exporting genocide" from Darfur by arming rebels and raiders and sending them over the border to destabilise neighbouring non-Arab states.

Some analysts say the U.N. should look beyond a narrow focus on the blocked Darfur deployment and move immediately to staunch the violence seeping into these two landlocked, unstable states.

"I really see this as a cluster of problems that need to be addressed as a sub-regional crisis," said Suliman Baldo, a central Africa expert with the New York-based International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ).

"Since the U.N. are unable to deploy in Darfur, they should deploy in Chad and Central African Republic to arrest the spread of this regional crisis," said Baldo. The ICTJ helps countries to seek accountability for atrocities and human rights abuses.

U.N. head of peacekeeping Jean-Marie Guehenno is sending a mission to Chad and Central African Republic to consider deploying U.N. forces in both countries.

"We've been asking for this for months. I only hope they won't be arriving too late," said one humanitarian official who works in eastern Chad. He asked not to be named.

He said in addition to more than 200,000 Darfur refugees sheltering in camps in eastern Chad, around 65,000 Chadians had been forced from their homes this year by violence.

Eritrea accuses UN peacekeeping missions of 'neo-colonialism'

(*AFP* – 8th Nov. **Asmara**) Eritrea has launched a stinging verbal attack on UN peacekeeping missions, accusing them of "neo-colonialism," espionage and prolonging war in a new broadside against the world body.

In a new sign of deteriorating relations between Asmara and the United Nations, the state-run Eritrea Profile newspaper called such missions a "lucrative business" that use "war and genocide as a form of trade."

The paper vehemently opposed the deployment of UN peacekeepers to Sudan's troubled Darfur region, saying the proposed move, rejected by Khartoum, was an "evil plot" aimed at compromising Sudanese sovereignty.

"There are no rules that regulate the duration of their stay nor are there any serious initiatives taken to terminate such missions once they have overstayed their welcome," it said in an editorial.

"Peacekeeping forces have become tools for perpetuating unrest and conflicts as well as a source of information and espionage," the paper said. "In short, peacekeeping missions have become the means to neo-colonialism."

Although it did not refer specifically to UNMEE, the UN peacekeeping mission that monitors the tense border between Eritrea and Ethiopia, the editorial was also published amid increasing tension between Asmara and the world body.

* "We do not need the carrot, and would not be intimidated by the stick. ... We don't care," *reuters* quoting Presidential Advisor Nafei Ali Nafei as he was speaking to reporters in Cairo. The quote is on Sudan's acceptance of UN deployment in return of the US lifting economic sanctions

CPA

SPLM calls for political solution to Abyei row

(*SudanTribune.Com* – 8th Nov. **Khrt.**) Sudan People's Liberation Movement called for a political solution to the Abyei issue through negotiation and dialogue with the ruling National Congress Party (NCP), a SPLM official affirmed.

The State Minister at the Sudanese presidency, Telar Deng, rejected referring the case to the constitutional court saying that the SPLM is keen to resolve Abyei issue within a political framework with the NCP.

Telar indicated that the resolution of Abyei row is a joint responsibility between the SPLM and the NCP.

This statement comes after a statement made by Deng Alor a Sudan People's Liberation Movement, SPLM leader and federal cabinet minister who had threatened to sue the Presidency over failure to implement the Abyei Protocol.

Minister of Interior concedes failure to reintegrate SPLA into local police in Blue Nile and S. Kordofan

(*AllIntibaha*) The Minister of the Interior has requested the National Assembly to review the implementation of the JIU formation and the military redeployment process stipulated in the protocol on Security Arrangements in the CPA.

In a report before parliament, the minister described implementation of the said protocol as at a "humble level".

He also pointed out that the DDR process has been very slow and has contributed to the outbreak of clashes and loss of property in some southern Sudanese states and Darfur while some areas of Equatoria and Upper Nile in southern Sudan have witnessed clashes between citizens. He blamed "foreign parties" for the escalation in the clashes in Darfur with an eye to the region's wealth and added that the police is ready to block any attempt at invasion.

The minister lamented failure of attempts to reintegrate SPLA elements in Blue Nile and S. Kordofan into the local police force

North Sudan DDR Commission launches its programs in eastern Sudan

(*AllIntibaha*) The Northern Sudan DDR Commission has announced it intends to launch its programs for eastern Sudan next week

the Coordinator-General for the commission also said that the timeline they had set for a survey DDR survey for the SAF in the Central Military Zone was closing in and that the commission has completed all preparations for the program which is expected to last about two months.

GoNU

Interior Minister confirms that a major world power behind the assassination of editor

(*Rai AlShaab*) Addressing the National Legislative Assembly yesterday on the security situations in the country, interior minister El Zubeir Bashir Taha revealed that a hostile western country is behind the assassination of the Sudan paper editor Mohamed Taha.

He says this is based from evidence given to the Police by a local employee of the said country's embassy in Sudan.

Taha added that the suspected assassins were caught in different parts of Sudan as they fled.

SLM-Minnawi accuses the NCP of gagging the media on Minnawi's Darfur tour

Rai AlShaab, The SLM-Minnawi accused the National Congress Party of gagging the media on the Senior Presidential Assistant Minnawi's visit to Darfur States last days.

SLM information advisor, Mr. Al Tayeb Khamis said that the media coverage wasn't comprehensive and did not reflect the actual facts and events for the Sudanese people. He added that the media coverage didn't award the tour appropriate attention. He called the media including television and radio to be more national as they convey the facts.

Goss /Southern Sudan

Cholera hits Juba again

(Juba Post) Over 120 cases of acute watery diarrhoea have been admitted to the Juba Teaching Hospital since last week while Yei Civil Hospital has 104 meningitis patients.

The acute watery diarrhoea outbreak is considered another case of cholera.

Sudan Road Company launches ten state construction project

(Juba Post) A road construction company last Tuesday signalled the launch of a road and bridge construction program targeting all ten states of southern Sudan.

The managing director of Payii National Company for Roads and Bridges said that the company is ready to start clearing all roads around Juba town – 2 kilometres for free.

The managing director wonders why the GoSS did not give road construction contracts to local companies and favoured ones instead.

The company is being supported by the Nile Commercial Bank and will open branches in all ten states of southern Sudan.

Security concerns in southern Sudan

HEALTH WORKERS KILLED IN ARMED ATTACK ON CONVOY IN TORIT *(Rai AlShaab)*: A convoy of health insurance personnel was ambushed by a group of armed men while on their way from Torit to Khartoum via Juba.

There is no clear information on the casualty figures but a number of deaths have been reported.

JUBA ROAD INSECURITY SUBSIDES *(Juba Post)*: Attacks on roads connecting Juba are finally subsiding with only two reported incidents since last Saturday.

LANDMINES STILL PREVALENT AT JEBEL KUJUR *(Juba Post)*: Jebel Kujur still has landmines and UXOs scattered across the area, warns Bangladeshi peacekeepers of the UNMIS.

Lt. Col. Atiqur Rahman reports that 6,000 UXOs have been removed from an area of 7,000 square meters. He believes it will take another 2 to 3 months for the area to be safe from UXOs and landmines.

The UN peacekeeper said that poor road conditions have taken a lot of time away from the de-miners and the rocky terrain does not enable them use their equipment in the area. communicating with the local population has also been difficult and the de-miners have had problems regarding controlling movement particularly during exploding. He said that the

commission eventually provided the de-mining team with local police who were able to restrict people's movements.

AT LEAST 300 DISPLACED FROM GUMBO AREA (*Juba Post*): Over 300 people have been displaced from Gumbo across the Nile from Juba, a local resident reports. He said among major problems they face is that of shelter.

Another citizen complained that these people have received no assistance from the GoSS or NGOs.

Citizens says Gumbo has suffered Lord's Resistance Army attacks and attacks by other unknown armed groups and has not enjoyed peace in spite of the CPA.

Ugandan women to take peace torch to Juba

(*Xinhua* – 8th Nov. **Kampala**) Ugandan women groups will take the Women's Peace Torch to begin a five-day solidarity journey to the southern Sudan capital of Juba where the Ugandan government and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) are negotiating a peace deal under the mediation of the southern Sudan authorities.

Brought to Uganda by women leaders from Kenya and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), a support of the program, the torch was lit and presented to Uganda's State Minister for Gender Lukia Nakadema and entrusted to the parliament after a march through the streets of the Ugandan capital Kampala.

Members of the Uganda Women Parliamentary Association and the Civil Society Women's Peace Coalition will be led by Uganda Women's Network on a peace caravan undertaking the trek to Juba.

According to a UNIFEM's statement, the coalition has consulted women from the war-torn northern Uganda and collected views on the ongoing peace process, which will be used to develop a women's position paper on the Juba peace negotiations.

The peace caravan, aimed at showing solidarity for peace under the theme, "Women of Uganda Want Peace and Peace Needs Women", will pitch camps for a day in Kitgum with members of all the communities where it passed before proceeding to Juba to join the talks.

The torch arrived in Kampala on October 27 as a demonstration for regional and global solidarity for peace in Uganda.

** "Explosion kills 9 children in Melleet" was cited in the section on southern Sudan in the "Headlines" sent earlier. The explosion occurred but in a place of the same name but in Darfur and not in southern Sudan.*

Darfur

President Bashir expresses confidence that the Darfur crises will be resolved through peaceful means

Allintibaha, while addressing the opening session of Khartoum economic forum, President Bashir assured that the Government is able to come above the Darfur crises in line with international charters and conventions and faith in God.

El Bashir described the UN resolution No. 1706 as a suspect resolution and that accepting it would be a risky affair and that is why the Sudan government rejected the resolution.

Minnawi's Darfur tour: Minnawi in el-Geneina pledges 35 billion pounds for development in west Darfur

(*Rai AlShaab*) Senior Presidential Aide and head of the Darfur Interim Authority Minni Minnawi, announced yesterday that he was pledging 35 billion Pounds for development of West Darfur through the Darfur Development Fund.

The money, he said, will be used for services such as electricity, schools and the construction of model villages and this, he hopes, will usher in the beginning of returns.

Sudan says ready for talks with Darfur's NRF rebels

(*Reuters* – 9th Nov. **Cairo**) The Sudanese government is willing to start unconditional talks with the National Redemption Front rebel group to stop the violence in Darfur but sees no need for a new peace deal, a senior presidential adviser said.

Nafie Ali Nafie, addressing reporters in Egypt, South Africa, France, and Britain through a satellite link from Khartoum late on Wednesday, also said Sudan would not accept the presence of U.N. troops in the war-ravaged area, even in return for the United States lifting economic sanctions.

The NRF, an alliance of rebel groups that rejected as inadequate a May peace accord signed in the Nigerian capital Abuja, has said it is ready to negotiate with the Khartoum government but wants a new agreement.

Asked if the government would sign a new peace deal with any rebel group that rejected the May accord, Nafie said: "We can reach an agreement without having to amend the Abuja (deal). We have the basis that can help us reach this."

Nafie's appearance was the first of a series of video conferences the Sudanese government is organizing to explain its position on Darfur after repeated accusations by Western powers that it was supporting militias to fight mostly non-Arab rebels.

U.N. diplomats said on Wednesday the world body was considering a hybrid African Union-U.N. force, possibly led by an African commander, to win Bashir's approval. The commander would report to the AU and the U.N. special envoy in Sudan, they said on condition of anonymity.

There was no comment from Sudan on Thursday about the possible offer. But Nafie, Bashir's most powerful adviser, said the government would not be tempted to accept U.N. troops in Darfur even if it was offered economic incentives.

"We do not need the carrot, and would not be intimidated by the stick. ... We don't care," he said.

He likened the U.N. resolution to a "trap" Western powers have set to capture "the mouse in Khartoum".

"I tell them that the mouse in Khartoum cannot be caught by any cat in the world. They should seek another trap," he said, grinning after an Egyptian reporter suggested Sudan should accept U.N. troops because "the cat's color is not important as long as it catches the troublemakers (in Darfur)".

The conference lasted for more than two hours and was marred by technical failures in Khartoum and other cities taking part. Bashir and Second Vice President Ali Osman Taha are scheduled to make similar appearances later in November.

Presidential advisor Nafie Ali accuses Chad of fuelling the conflict in Darfur

(*AlAyaam*) Presidential advisor Nafie Ali Nafie has accused Chad of rekindling conflict in Darfur by supporting the non-signatory Justice and Equality Movement.

He assured SUNA yesterday that the Sudan is keen to have good relations with Chad and to stop any political action from its side against Chad if the latest stopped supporting the rebels.

Darfur's violence spilling across Chadian border

(*AP* – 8th Nov. **N'Djamena**) Chad's government says ethnic violence in Sudan's Darfur is spilling across the border, sparking an upsurge of deadly Arab-African fighting among Chadians.

In a statement late Tuesday, Minister of Communications Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor said the latest fighting broke out Saturday in Sila, an eastern Chad region, and left "numerous victims" on both sides.

"Heavy weapons were, unfortunately, used to spread death and desolation in a region already subjected to attacks from mercenaries coming from Sudan," Doumgor, who also is the government's spokesman, added. Chad officials routinely use "mercenaries" to refer to Chadian rebels who have rear bases in Sudan.

Earlier Tuesday, members of a Cabinet delegation who had gone to another eastern region to investigate reports of ethnic violence said a small clash between ethnic Arabs and ethnic Africans escalated into a large-scale attack in which Arabs killed 128 Africans. The extent of the Oct. 31 violence had not been clear until the delegation reached the remote region Monday.

"The government has already called the international community's attention to Sudan's exportation of its crisis to Chad," Doumgor said. "It's a genocide with a tendency toward spilling over Sudan's Darfur border. The international community must respond by sending a U.N. peace force before it's too late."

Chadian state radio reported Wednesday that President Idriss Deby and his foreign, defense and infrastructure ministers went to Libya Tuesday for consultations about regional tensions with Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, who has tried to mediate between Chad and Sudan.

The radio quoted Deby as telling Gadhafi that Sudan "continued to arm, train, feed and send mercenaries to destabilize Chad and by extension the entire region."

"Sudan also is stirring up ethnic and tribal hatred in Chad's east," Deby was quoted as saying.

Controls tighten on media and aid workers in Darfur

(Reuters – 8th Nov. **Kulbus, Sudan**) Sudan has tightened restrictions on aid workers and journalists travelling to Darfur, and analysts say the aim is to conceal renewed hostilities between rebels and the army.

Journalists have been detained, aid workers obstructed and rules changed weekly for foreigners in the strife-torn region.

A British Sunday Times reporter this week was detained on arrival at the main airport, initially on the grounds she was wearing a cap belonging to a different news organisation. Then her passport was seized over alleged irregularities.

She is just one example.

"Definitely there's been a massive crackdown in the last few months," said Leslie Lefkowitz of Human Rights Watch. "It's the same old pattern of the government in trying to restrict the flow of information."

"They've managed to conduct a massive media campaign that is subverting the reality of what's happening in Darfur."

She said the two main targets were journalists and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Darfur has the world's largest aid operation, with 14,000 aid workers supplying humanitarian help to miserable camps in the region.

Sudan denies it prevents reporting. It has regularly issued permits for journalists to go to Darfur, but said on Tuesday it had temporarily stopped doing so. One official said that was to smooth procedures for journalists arriving in Darfur.

Khartoum and Darfur authorities do not always appear to see eye-to-eye.

A foreign TV crew last month was detained after authorities in Darfur's main town el-Fasher said they did not recognise the Interior Ministry stamp extending their visas. A Western newspaper reporter was detained for a day on the grounds Khartoum officials had made a typing error on his travel permit.

Darfur JEM to create an inclusive political party

(SudanTribune.com – 8th Nov. **London**) The Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said it is planning to create a political force to represent all the marginalized regions in the country.

In a meeting held in the German city of Bielefeld on 4 and 5 November, the JEM decided to establish an inclusive political party aiming to represent the aspirations of the marginalized regions in Sudan.

The JEM spokesperson, Ahmed Hussein Adam, told Sudan Tribune that this plan is seen as strategic objective for the movement after the realization of the peace in Darfur region.

"Giving Sudan the AU chair would be tantamount to rewarding (President) al-Bashir regime, accused by the United States of genocide in Darfur, and would damage the AU's credibility" the JEM spokesperson said.

**Please see the full text of the JEM Press Release in separate attachment*

Editorial and Commentaries

Cases of rape cause much worry in the community

AlSharia AlSiyassi, While news of the rape by three young men of ten year-old Maram is still going the rounds in Khartoum, society has been shocked that similar incidents continue to happen with the most recent reported cases being that of the rape of two girls, one in Haj Yusif and the other in Oum Oshar south of Khartoum.

The recurrence of such practices targeting children and minors generally, has spread fear and concern in the society.

Psychologists say that the eradication of such ill practices requires collaboration of all the sectors of society.

They added that the police has to seriously take into consideration these issues and take action against them.

Exit Jan Pronk ...Entry Jan Pronk!

(*AlIntibaha*) The columnist said that the appointment of SRSG Pronk to that position following the signing of the CPA was well received by the people of Sudan who looked to his appointment with hope as he had earlier visited Sudan while still Minister of International Cooperation in the government of Holland. The fact that his visit came at a time of heavy boycott of Sudan by Europe.

The writer says he was in New York when Mr. Pronk was appointed as SRSG to Sudan and recalls that this was in defiance to the wishes of the US Administration that wanted to see a US national appointed to the position. This, he further argues, endeared him more to the people of Sudan.

He then said that after his appointment, Mr. Pronk upset the Sudanese by his attempts to appease the US through his reports on the situation in Sudan. He says that the SRSG was also being controlled by the European position towards Sudan.

Asked by AlJazeera television on the problems with the Sudanese government [*following his expulsion*], Mr. Pronk said that Sudan's problem is with the UN and not with him. The writer wonders whether by this, SRSG Pronk meant to say that Sudan must confront the Security Council and that all the problems he created was the invention of the UN while he is himself innocent.

He further points out that maybe Mr. Pronk will be appointed for a similar task should the envisaged mission in Chad take root from where he could continue launching his activities on Darfur.