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Highlights

NEC Director sacked over controversial power supply

Local dailies report the Presidency yesterday issued a decree removing Director General of the National Electricity Corporation (NEC) Makkawi Mohamed Awad from his post. According to **Al-Sahafa**, NEC Deputy DG Bushra Abdullah Jadallah was tasked to run the facility until another DG is appointed. The paper learned that Makkawi was sacked over dispute between the Merowe Dam Administration and the NEC which disrupted power supply.

VPs Taha and Machar overcome some sticky points

GoNU VP Ali Osman Taha and GoSS VP Riek Machar yesterday resumed their dialogue and had succeeded in resolving some contentious provisions in the referendum bill, **Al-Sahafa** reports. The two sides are resolved to reach an agreement on the bill to be submitted to the National Assembly for endorsement before the end of the Parliament's current session. Sources told the paper that the meeting discussed a range of issues including obstacles hindering the Abyei boundary demarcation.

Sudan Tribune website 11/10/09 reported the two major partners in the Sudan's Government of National Unity and signatories to the 2005's North-South peace deal, which ended 21 years of war, have resumed the heated debates on the formulation of Southern Sudan referendum law ...

The two parties are deadlocked particularly on the percentage of registered voters required to declare Southern Sudan an independent country. The SPLM has proposed 51% while the NCP proposed 75%.

On the registered voters' general turnout, which is a different requirement, the SPLM has proposed 50% while the NCP demands 90%.

There are also disputed post-referendum issues including discussions on what to do with the liabilities (debts), assets, waters, Joint Integrated Units (JIU's), oil, currency and international agreements in case the South would vote for separation.

The SPLM wants such post-referendum issues to be discussed in a separate forum outside the referendum bill while the NCP wants them included in the bill ...

South Sudan's Matip says SPLA plotted attack on his guards

Sudan Tribune website 11/10/09 – Paulino Matip, in a written statement, alleged that the attack against his guards in Bentiu this month was coordinated at the highest level of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. The communiqué was passed to Sudan Tribune by one of his aides.

Sixteen people were reportedly killed and more wounded on October 2nd in a clash between guards loyal to Matip and forces led by Unity State Governor Taban Deng Gai. After the bloodshed, SPLA officials downplayed the incident as a "misunderstanding" between the two sets of guards...

In a memo last week addressed to the international community and the United Nations, he alleged that President Salva Kiir Mayardit plotted the attack in conjunction with Governor Taban

Deng and the SPLA Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. James Hoth Mai. He said "they coordinated with the governor to execute an attack on my bodyguards in Unity State (Bentiu)."

The letter from Matip echoes earlier reports of Matip blaming SPLA commanders for defections by some of his top men. In his letter he named three close aides – Major General Thayiep Gatluak, Col. John Maluk, and Col. Mawiel Tuor – who he said were persuaded to desert him while he was in the United States for medical treatment.

He added that Kiir, Hoth and Taban Deng "bribed a big number of my bodyguards that finally rebelled against me." He also pointed to an incident in Bentiu in which six of his guards were arrested.

"I don't have any prejudice against the southerners and the president [Salva Kiir], but I would want the international community and the UN to know that I'm having a problem with the president. The president wants my bodyguards to desert through the governor of the Unity state's influence," Matip stated ...

Interpol to help UN in peacekeeping missions

AFP 12/10/09 - Interpol, the global police organization, said Monday it would provide enhanced technical and advisory support to the United Nations in the world body's peacekeeping missions worldwide.

Interpol director of legal affairs Joel Sollier told reporters in Singapore that his organization "will provide advice and consulting services in the area of policing during peacekeeping operations."

He said Interpol's support will include field information to police officers as well as assistance in areas such as investigation techniques.

"Interpol is not going to send troops out into the field here and there throughout the world," Sollier said on the sidelines of Interpol's 78th general assembly that began Monday in Singapore.

"What Interpol is going to do is to provide technical assistance, technical support. It will provide advice and consulting services in the area of policing during peacekeeping operations."

About 64 foreign, justice and home affairs ministers from around the world endorsed a declaration committing Interpol to help the UN strengthen the role of police forces in peacekeeping and rebuilding operations in countries recovering from conflict.

The ministers were among 800 delegates from 187 member countries attending the general assembly which ends Thursday.

UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations police adviser Andrew Hughes said Interpol's help is important because rebuilding efforts are often complicated by trans-national crime syndicates keen to exploit the situation.

"On every front, whether it's capacity building, interim law enforcement or close operations support, we need the help of Interpol... we need all of the technical expertise that Interpol can bring to the equation," Hughes said.

UNESCO trains journalists on election reporting

Radio Miraya 12/10/09 - The United Nations' Education and Cultural agency (UNESCO) on

Monday held a workshop in the Southern Sudanese capital, Juba to train journalists on elections reporting. UNESCO's Sudan Director, Eunice Semis, said the workshop would upgrade journalists from both north and south for the forthcoming elections and the referendum process.

Abyei border demarcation team denies SPLM allegations

Sudan Tribune website 12/10/09— Sami Bushara, the Abyei border demarcation technical team leader, today strongly denied charges made against him by Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) team members saying these allegations “do not hold substantial grounds”.

“The allegations made against me by SPLM team members in their report do not carry any meaning or truth considering that I have done nothing to hinder activities of our assignment,” he said.

His remarks come after SPLM members of the technical team directed nine charges against him. The team accused him of having sided with members of Misseriya tribe on a number of issues including security threats to technical team members particularly members from the SPLM side.

He is also accused of having undermined the need to have an assistant from the SPLM side, ignorance of technical advice on the usage of equipment, misled team on availability of machinery before arrival besides claims that he had an approved budget which later appeared not endorsed by the Presidency. Bushara said that he has mobilized local support from authorities and chiefs.

“This was why the team had to start meeting local authorities and chiefs from both sides before going to the sites after arrival to Abyei” he said.

“The reason was to encourage and secure their full involvement in the implementation process of the border demarcation, because they are the ones who had lived in the areas being demarcated for years,” he said adding that “they know it better than us”.

However, Bushara acknowledged some of the challenges the team has faced.

“We were faced with logistical problems, security, housing and budget” but stressed these should not be blamed on him.

He said all concerns should be raised with the presidency for possible action “instead of blaming each other”.

“We should be working together as a team not individuals or parties, because we are technical team assigned to do technical work,” he stressed.

“This was why I used to encourage equal participation of team members whenever there was a concern,” he noted.

He revealed that he was in constant contact with presidency consulting and seeking advice on the activities.

“If I was not interested why I have showed such consistent stand on issues?” he posed saying that his ultimate goal was to see successful conduct of the border demarcation.

Bushara said that he had no bias in his coordination of all the related activities.

He also said that did not make any changes to what was agreed upon by the two parties in Khartoum prior to leaving for Abyei in early September.

“As executive secretary, I did not add nor change anything from what was agreed by the parties,” he said.

Misseriya chasing the wind on Abyei – Arop

Khartoum Monitor reports member of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly Arop Modut Arop as saying that if Misseriya tribe is still chasing Abyei, they are chasing the wind. Arop added that Misseriya tribe has accepted the outcome of the Abyei ruling in The Hague and all the sides have agreed on the award. But later on they said they were not part of Abyei ruling in The Hague. “Misseriya was represented in The Hague by Ambassador Al-Dirdiri Mohamed Ahmed and their leaders. Arop said the Misseriya were instigated by their leaders in Khartoum to create trouble in Abyei. He said they have stopped the demarcation and have threatened the UN force in the region. He condemned the Tseteb conference in Abyei which he believed is having a hidden agenda because it was attended by the Misseriya and the Dink Ngok from the NCP only.

SPLA soldiers rape three women in Abyei

Al-Wifaq reports that SPLA soldiers on Sunday raped three women while on their way to fetch firewood in “Anit” village in Abyei area. Tribal leaders have demanded the relocation of the SPLA force stationed east of “Anit” village since May last year. Sultan Chol Kuol said if the soldiers are not relocated, their presence could lead to anarchy in the area. He called on authorities to intervene to address the situation, saying residents are getting impatient.

3388 NGOs operating in Sudan – HAC Commissioner

HAC Commissioner Hassabo Mohamed Abdul Rahman has revealed that 3200 national NGOs, 167 international NGOs and 21 UN agencies are currently working in Sudan, **al-Sahafa** reports. Addressing NGO workshop yesterday, Mr. Hassabo stressed that the work of INGOs should be carried out through a national partner. The recommendations of the workshop called building a strong relationship between the INGOs and national NGOs and called on the Sudanese Government to create a favourable atmosphere, to facilitate procedures for experts and donors and re-energize funding mechanism for an effective partnership.

Government hints further INGO expulsion

Al-Raed reports the Sudanese Government has warned it would kick out any INGO that does not abide by the laws regulating humanitarian work in Sudan, saying it has already begun assessing activities of some INGOs operating in the country. Director of Organizations at the Humanitarian Affairs Ministry Ahmed Adam said if any INGO found not complying with the laws regulating its work it would be thrown out.

Lack of trust hinders peaceful settlement in Darfur

Al-Sudani reports Qatari State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Ben Abdullah as saying that lack of confidence among the parties to the dispute in Darfur hinders ongoing efforts to achieve peace in the upcoming Doha talks.

Meanwhile, a technical workshop involving the UN, AU, League of Arab State and representatives from several states and organizations kicked off yesterday in Doha with the

participation of AU-UN chief negotiator D'jibril Bassole. Workshop organizers said it represents a serious beginning for the peace in the region.

Darfur Farmers new Zam Zam block projects NGOs

Radio Dabanga 12/10/09 – The humanitarian organizations are not allowed to build their premises in new Zam Zam camp, 50 kilometres away from the old Zam Zam camp near El Fasher. The farmers at the new location stated that they are not compensated by the Government and would not allow others to build on their land. The compensations, 50 SDG per month, should have been paid to the farmers by the 3rd of October but they did not receive any money. Around 80 farmers were involved in relocation from that area in order to facilitate the new displaced ZamZam camp. They will start cultivating the new location for ZamZam-camp if the Government doesn't solve the issue of money compensation. Some IDPs have already been moved to the new ZamZam camp, but they are not able or allowed as yet to start building schools or facilities.

Darfur rebels reject proposal to hold unity conference in Libya

Sudan Tribune website 12/10/09 — A rebel group rejected today a proposal by the US envoy for Sudan to hold a rebel reunification conference in Libya instead of an initial plan to organize it in Darfur.

The rebels said they want to be among their supporters and troops to allow broad participation and to realize a real unity far from foreign influence and interference.

US envoy Scott Gration, by initiating Addis Ababa process, meant to involve more rebel group in the Doha peace process considering that the Libyan initiative had focused one ethnic group.

"After talks with Libyan foreign minister Moussa Kusa last Thursday, Gration proposed us to change the venue of the conference to Kufra in Libya but we reject this idea," said Al Hadi Idriss Yahya, the Political Secretary of the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Ahmed Abdel Shafi ...

Interview: National Assembly Speaker, Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir

(Akhir Lahza 13/10/09)

Q. *with the Parliament just back from recess, the SPLM has threatened to boycott sessions on the grounds what he described as "law terrorism within the Parliament". It has also threatened to move a Vote of No Confidence against you. What are your comments?*

Speaker: These are not the views of the SPLM but of an influential individual within the party who has his own agenda. This individual is also afraid that if the referendum bill is endorsed it will give our brothers in southern Sudan the right to decide on the country's fate as per the provisions of the CPA. This person is a northern Sudanese and does not want the bill to be passed because he is worried about his position in the party leadership. He is also facing a pending criminal case and there is a request tabled before me to strip him of his immunity. All these, in my view, are the reasons for such statements.

Q.: *But Yassir Arman is not the only critic of the National Assembly in the SPLM. Deputy Speaker Atem Garang is also critical of the Parliament.*

Speaker: Many of the statements made by SPLM officials are addressed to SPLM members in the first place and not to the general public.

Q. *It looks as though the differences between you and Arman are taking a more personal turn.*

Speaker: I do not have any personal problems with Mr. Arman and consider myself a father to

all members of parliament. My position demands impartiality and balance.

Q. Do you consider your threats to table the Referendum Bill for deliberation in the Parliament a legal move?

Speaker: The Constitution clearly stipulates that the endorsement of the referendum bill is the duty of the National Assembly. We will all be responsible if the current term of the National Assembly ends without the endorsement of the bill. We have given the opportunity for consultations over the bill but this has dragged on for more than a year and now entered a critical stage. The bill has to be endorsed by the Parliament if agreement is not reached by the parties outside the House.

Q. But the SPLM fears that the bill will be endorsed through the simple majority vote once in Parliament.

Speaker: You know how democratic systems operate. The current formation of the National Assembly has been agreed upon by the political parties.

Q. Is the current parliamentary term enough for the endorsement of all these crucial bills?

Speaker: There are not many bills currently tabled before Parliament. The key bills to be discussed during this term include the National Security Bill that we expect to take up more time. We also have the draft budget coming up for deliberation probably next month. We hope to endorse these and the Referendum Bill during this Parliamentary term that ends early December.

Q. Do we expect heated debates between the NCP and SPLM during this Parliamentary term?

Speaker: I personally do not like calm sessions. Parliament is a place for free expression where different ideas are expressed.

Q. Don't you fear that such discussions may turn into a war of words in the media and may affect public opinion at this critical period?

Speaker: There is no war between the two parties. All legislations passed by the House was agreed upon by the two sides after consultations. The SPLM is present in all activities of the National Assembly. The Deputy Speaker is from the SPLM and the SPLM commands a 25% presence in the House and has very competent representatives.

Q. What happens if the SPLM decide to walk out of Parliament?

Speaker: What is important for us is that the National Assembly continues functioning. I will try as much as possible to keep all members under the same roof and to make sure that the conditions are favourable for our work. But I would not hesitate to go ahead if somebody boycotts Parliament as long as I have a quorum.

OP-ED: Proposals for extending the CPA, by Mahjoub Mohamed Salih

The **Citizen** - Political thinkers are worried about the approaching date of the two most crucial events in the history of Sudan, namely the general elections and the referendum on self-determination for southern Sudan that come against the background of problems that made it impossible to provide a suitable atmosphere for effecting these crucial operations. After thought, they decided to propose a three-year extension of the Interim Period ending in 2014 to help bring about an atmosphere conducive to carry out such operations. They were keen to stress that the power structures and the rule of the two partners would not be subject to modification during the period.

Notwithstanding the soundness and logic of these proposals, I have the conviction that they would not be acceptable for many reasons of which I can mention the following:

The NCP and the SPLM agreed on the six-year Interim Period after the unyielding efforts of the

mediators. This new proposal for a three-year extension would mean that the SPLM would need to re-discuss the issue. I guess that the possibilities for an SPLM acceptance to such a proposal are remote given the current tensions and SPLM convictions that there has been deliberate procrastination in the implementation of the CPA.

The realities on the ground show that the slow implementation of the peace agreement has been due to a lack of political will rather than insufficiency of time. As such, the additional time of any extension proposal would be a waste of time given the lack of political will.

The argument that a new extension would be accompanied by a binding implementation plan and an agreed-upon timeframe would backfire because the CPA itself was a binding deal and supported by a specific timetable and has not been satisfactorily honoured. Moreover, the road map agreed upon between the two sides following the SPLM walkout from the federal parliament was a new deal. Hence, there are no satisfactory indicators that the new proposed extension will have a better fate in terms of agreement and implementation.

The lack of mutual trust between the NCP and the SPLM is the rule of the day. Numerous southerners believe that some northern parties are looking for vulnerable points in the CPA to call for a re-negotiation of the deal with the aim of undermining it. As such, they always dismiss any proposals for modification in respect to the stipulations of the CPA. The rhetoric that came in the wake of the Juba conference is an example.

I am quite convinced that circumstances are not ripe enough for countering the approaching challenges and time is becoming a pressing factor. Therefore, before considering other alternatives, we have to embark on resolving all other pending issues. When we move from words to deeds, the current position might positively change. As such, any proposal of extension is premature and should be adjourned.