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Headlines

- Constituencies depends on end of census dispute – NEC (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Nafie reveals European scenario to postpone elections (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- Elections should be monitored at all levels – Turabi (**Ray Al-Shaab**)
- SPLM requests meeting with NEC on census results (**Al-Khartoum**)
- SPLM to resort to IGAD to resolve census results dispute (**Al-Intibaha**)
- Sudan announces details of contested census results (**ST**)
- Sudan's SPLM to launch Khartoum electoral campaign next month (**ST**)
- Sudan electoral body to establish states' committees (**ST**)
- Umma Party leader to meet Kiir in Juba (**Akhir Lahza**)
- DUP names presidential candidate (**Al-Wifaq**)
- Doctors in Southern Sudan to go on strike (**Ray Al-Shaab**)
- Russia calls for international intervention in Sudan-Chad conflict (**ST**)
- Qatar mediating Bashir-Deby summit (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- Egypt opposes move to divide Sudan (**Ajras Al-Hurriah**)
- Bashir to meet Mahdi (**SMC**)
- Sima Samar due in Khartoum today (**Akhir Lahza**)
- 5000 SPLA soldiers to demobilize in Equatoria (**Miraya**)
- JEM holds extra ordinary meeting with field commanders (**SMC**)
- SPLA, police patrol exchange fire in Khartoum (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- "Niggers" kill three in Khartoum (**Al-Intibaha**)
- 13 killed in Rizeigat-Messeriya clash in Bahr el Arab (**Al-Watan**)
- Five south Sudan tribesmen die in clash with soldiers (**Reuters**)
- Opinion: Why our country is teeming with UN vehicles? (**Al-Intibaha**)

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Highlights

Constituency announcement depends on end to census dispute - NEC

Al-Sahafa reports NEC Deputy Chairman Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah has said the geographical constituencies would be determined and announced after the ongoing controversy over census results are taken into consideration. He affirmed that a limited amendment would be introduced in the electoral timetable, saying it is necessitated by the delay of release of the census results. However, he said the amendment would have no impact on the key elements of the timetable such as polling and the final day of elections. Meanwhile, Abdullah hinted the possibility of postponement of constituency delimitation within the North-South border demarcation areas but said the matter could be addressed by the Presidency. He has denied any intention by the NEC to postpone elections or to issue a new timetable, saying only amendments would be introduced to the schedule.

Nafie reveals European scenario to postpone elections

Addressing a rally of support for President Al-Bashir at the Friendship Hall yesterday, the Presidential Assistant Nafi Ali Nafi said those who are questioning the census results are not doing so on valid grounds, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports. "Elections will never be postponed," he added. "We are currently monitoring a European scenario intended to postpone elections. Some party leaders have visited some of those countries as part of the postponement plan. Changing this government by means other than elections is impossible," Nafie told the crowd. "Neither national nor interim government will be formed. The present government can only be changed through elections. Any internal or external attempts to change the government by means other than the ballot will boomerang," Nafie said, according to **Akhbar Al-Youm**. **Al-Ahdath** reports Nafi called on the political parties not to waste time trying to disrupt elections or to question the census results. "These parties have mobilized foreign circles, UN and the ICC in an attempt to change the government," he said.

Elections should be monitored at all levels – Turabi

Ray Al-Shaab reports PCP leader Hassan Al-Turabi has called on his party functionaries in states to monitor all levels of elections namely registration, disqualification, polling and vote count. He said if vote count does not start the moment polling ends, devils will tamper with the boxes during the night. He said Ambassadors of western countries were repeatedly asking him whether he would run or not.

SPLM requests meeting with NEC on census results

Al-Khartoum reports while SPLM announced its determination to request a meeting with the NEC for discussion on the census results, the NEC said the results had been endorsed by the Presidency but it would have no object to sit with the SPLM or any other party for discussion. Meanwhile, SPLM SG Pagan Amum has called on the NCP not to interfere in the movement's affairs including statements by SPLM's leaders. "SPLM is an independent party and statements of its leaders are based on the leadership's guidance," Amum said.

SPLM to resort to IGAD to resolve census result dispute

Al-Intibaha reports there is a strong tendency within the SPLM to take recourse to IGAD members to urge them to pressurize the government on the census results which they consider unfair. Source told the paper that southerners were angry with the census results and that SPLM is considering options including seeking the IGAD help to address the issue. National

Assembly Deputy Speaker Atem Grang has described the census exercise as “a failure”.

Sudan announces details of contested census results

Sudan Tribune website 21/5/09 reported the Sudanese government announced the detailed results of the fifth national census that SPLM former rebels have threatened to reject.

The total of Sudan's population is 39,154,490, with 8,260,490 living in the south, 21 percent of the national population, Central Bureau of Statistics head Yassin Al-Haj Abdin announced Thursday in a press conference. Khartoum's population is estimated at 5,074,321 followed by South Darfur state at 4,039,594; Al Jazeera state is in the third place with 3,575,280 followed by Northern Kordofan with 2,920,992. The southern Sudanese living in the north are estimated to be 520,000.

In southern Sudan, Jonglei State has the highest population with 1,358,602, followed by Central Equatoria State with 1,103,592, Warrap State 972,928, Upper Nile State 964,353, Eastern Equatoria State 906,126, Northern Bahr El-Ghazal state 720,898, Lakes state 695,730, Western Equatoria State 619,029, Unity State 588,801 and Western Bahr El-Ghazal State with 333,431.

Sudan's SPLM to launch Khartoum electoral campaign next month

Sudan Tribune website 23/5/09 reported SPLM Deputy Secretary General Yasser Arman announced that SPLM elections campaign in Khartoum would kick off next month.

Arman, who was speaking during the celebration of the SPLM 26th anniversary in Soba, near Khartoum, told the gathering that James Wani, a deputy chairman of the party and speaker of the Southern Sudan parliament, would head the political initiative.

Arman has reiterated SPLM rejection of the fifth national census results and its use to define the constituencies, instead calling to delimit it based on the figures of the electoral registries.

Sudan electoral body to establish states' committees

Sudan Tribune website 23/5/09 reported NEC has decided to send delegations to all the States of northern and southern Sudan to establish the offices of the higher electoral states committees.

The NEC in a statement released yesterday directed the heads and senior members of the committees to be at their offices in the different states and appealed to the governors and concerned stakeholders to facilitate the mission of its delegations.

Further the commission announced the formation of six delegations to visit the 26 Sudanese states.

Based on the outcome of the census, a single constituency for the proportional representation requires approximately 575 thousand people, 350 thousand women are needed to form one women's constituency, and 145 thousand people for one geographical constituency.

Umma Party leader to meet Kiir in Juba

Akhir Lahza reports SPLM distributed a press release stating that Umma Party leader Sadiq Al Mahdi will visit Juba early June to meet with GoSS President Salva Kiir. Reportedly, the meeting will focus on mutual issues and the forthcoming elections.

DUP names presidential candidate

Al-Wifaq reports DUP official Mirghani Mussaed as saying that the party has selected Maulana Mohamed Osman Al-Mirghani to run for upcoming presidential elections.

Doctors in Southern Sudan to go on strike

Ray Al-Shaab has learned physicians in southern Sudan will go on an open strike due to delay of payment of 8-months salary arrears.

Russia calls for international intervention in Sudan-Chad conflict

Sudan Tribune website 22/5/09 reported a senior Russian official as saying that the international community must intervene to defuse tensions between Sudan and Chad.

The Russian special envoy to Sudan Mikhail Margelov told Novosti news agency that the conflict between the two countries keeps escalating.

“If the international community does not undertake firm and needed steps to prevent conflict, the already tense situation in the region threatens to create a disaster” Margelov said.

Qatar mediating Bashir-Deby summit

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports Qatari Foreign Minister Ahmed Abdullah al-Mahmoud has conveyed a message from the Qatari emir to President Al-Bashir dealing with efforts to arrange a summit between him and Chad's Idriss Deby in Libya. He will leave for Chad today to convey a similar message to Deby.

Egypt opposes move to divide Sudan

Ajras Al-Hurriah reports Egypt categorically rejected the idea of dividing Sudan as a solution for some of the problems. Egypt's Foreign Ministry's spokesperson Hussam Zaki said Cairo was making efforts to address crises in the Sudan. “No body can marginalize Egypt's role in Sudan. The crisis in Sudan is multi-faceted. Egypt is making great political and diplomatic efforts to address issues in the South and in Darfur. Zaki declined to comment on whether there was contradiction between efforts by Doha, Washington, Cairo and Tripoli to address the Sudanese issue.

Bashir to meet Mahdi

Sudanese Media Centre 23/5/09 reported NCP reveals arrangements to organize a meeting between President Al-Bashir and Umma National party chairman Sadig Al-Mahadi. Reportedly, the meeting is intended to re-energize the reconciliation deal signed between NCP and Umma party. NCP secretary for mobilization Ibrahim Ghandour said the two parties are actively reviewing and assessing the work and assignments of the joint committees with regards to the implementation of the deal.

Sima Samar due in Khartoum today

UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Sima Samar is due to arrive in Khartoum today for meetings with government officials, **Akhir Lahza** reports. She will also visit Darfur and southern Sudan.

5000 SPLA soldiers to demobilize in Equatoria

Miraya FM 23/5/09 reported a technical Coordinating Committee for the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration program in Southern Sudan has said that the next phase of the DDR program which will start next month will target approximately five thousand (5,000) ex-

combatants in the Central Equatorial State.

Speaking to **Miraya FM**, the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee, Ambrose Kambaya, said the DDR program would be launched next month. Mr. Kambaya outlined the security issue and finances as some of the major challenges facing the DDR process.

JEM holds extra ordinary meeting with field commanders

Sudanese Media Centre 23/5/09 reported JEM field commander Hamad Dosa told **SMC** by telephone that JEM chief Kalil Ibrahim invited all field commanders for an extra ordinary meeting at Al-tine area to review the situation in the field. Reportedly, some JEM commanders criticize the Chadian logistical military support it provided to the movement before the recent attack by the movement on Karnoy area.

SPLA, police patrol exchange fire in Khartoum

Residents of Kalakela area in Khartoum were gripped with panic yesterday as some SPLA soldiers exchanged fired with a police patrol, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports. A source told the paper that an SPLA soldier had abused a passing police patrol and the patrol picked him to a police station. A group of armed SPLA soldiers came to the police station and opened fire in an attempt to free their colleague. Commanders from the two sides intervened and the situation was contained.

“Niggers” kill three in Khartoum

Al-Intibaha reports “a gang of niggers” attacked Um Dom area, in Khartoum, killing three and wounding more than 25 Friday and Saturday. Thirty “nigger” have been arrested and police is hunting the rest. A source told the paper that a group of over “fifty niggers” on board of two mini-buses, armed with machetes and sticks drove to the Faluga area in Om Dom and started killing and looting. Residents of Om Dom said the matter was serious and called on the Interior Ministry to address the issue.

13 killed in Rizeigat-Messeriya clash in Bahr el Arab

Al-Watan reports fighting erupted Friday between the Rizeigat and the Messeriya in the area of Merair located between Bahr el Arab and west of Abyei, leaving eleven killed on the Riseigat side and two on the side of the Messeriya. According to sources, the tribal fighting increased tension in the area.

Five south Sudan tribesmen die in clash with soldiers

Reuters 22/5/09 - Five Sudanese tribesmen have been killed in a gunfight with soldiers this week in south Sudan, and 22 others died in tribal fighting, a senior state official said on Friday.

Hussein Mar Nyuot, Deputy Governor of Jonglei state, said the fighting erupted after a member of the Murle ethnic group shot and wounded an armed soldier in Pibor in the Jonglei state, where French oil giant Total holds a large concession.

A gunbattle erupted after south Sudanese soldiers in nearby barracks became involved. Five members of the Murle tribe were killed. "There are high tensions (but) it is normal now," Nyuot told **Reuters**.