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(By Public Information Office)

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IN THE NEWS TODAY:

➤ **United Nations/ AU-UN transition debate**

- Bashir restricts movement of US nationals in Sudan*
- State Minister says US using Darfur as an elections card
- SLM calls for more dialogue with the United Nations

➤ **GoNU**

- Committee to unify national ranks to Darfur to meet armed groups of Darfur
- SPLM says not part in Vote of No Confidence against the speaker of the National assembly
- Police to beef up presence in the capital

➤ **Southern Sudan/ GoSS**

- Constitution of Western Equatoria State handed to justice minister

➤ **Darfur/DPA**

- SLM- Minnawi declares readiness to negotiate the DPA

HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations/ AU-UN transition debate

Bashir restricts movement of US nationals in Sudan*

(*SudanTribune.com* – 24th Sept. **Khrt.**) In a new escalation with the United States, President Bashir has ordered a restriction in the movements of US nationals in Sudan. He said these measures will be removed depending on an improvement of bilateral ties between Khartoum and Washington.

These measures, effective Monday, were announced at a press conference held Sunday evening after the president's return from the US restricts the movement of all Americans in Sudan to within a 25 kilometre radius from the Republican Palace in Khartoum.

The president said that the measure is in reciprocation to the way he and his accompanying delegation were treated during their recent visit to New York to participate at meetings of the African Union Peace & Security Council.

Al-Bashir also rebuffed reports of continued fighting in Darfur and challenged "any precise statistics that shows the fighting killed more than 10,000 people in Darfur," he said, adding that others may have died from famine.

The Sudanese president lashed out at the U.S. on Sunday, saying Washington's plans to create a "new Middle East" were behind an international push to replace African Union peacekeepers with U.N. forces in war-ravaged Darfur.

In a speech to cabinet ministers and journalists gathered in Khartoum, he said the United States and Britain wanted to recraft the region in Israel's interests and re-colonize Sudan.

The fact that the U.S. wasn't sanctioned for invading Iraq "in breach of every international treaty," nor Israel for "killing thousands of women and children in Lebanon," proves the U.N. is biased, al-Bashir said.

Instead, he praised the African Union's extension of its peacekeeping mission in Darfur as "a major victory." The under-funded and ill-equipped AU mission was scheduled to end Sept. 30, but has been extended until at least the end of the year.

** Detailed excerpt of President Bashir's press conference to follow in tomorrow's MMR*

State Minister says US using Darfur as an elections card

(*SudanTribune.com* – 24th Sept. **Khrt.**) Sudanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ali Ahmed Karti said that the crisis in the western Sudanese region of Darfur has become a card in elections in the United States.

The steps taken by the U.S. administration on the Darfur issue were aimed at "getting satisfaction of American voters in the complementary elections for the Congress and to gratify humanitarian and Jewish organizations that are funding the American elections", Karti was quoted as saying.

SLM calls for more dialogue with the United Nations

(*AlKhabar* – 25th Sept. **Khrt.**) SLM-Freewill says it rejects UNSCR 1706 because it will cause more insecurity and displacement of the population but says it favours more dialogue between the Sudan government and the United Nations on the issue.

Speaking to the Sudan Media Centre yesterday, SLM-Freewill leader AbdelRahman Musa Abakar called for the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and especially on its power sharing aspects

He also said that the signatories to the Darfur Peace Agreement will soon tour the Darfur region to convince the people to leave the war behind them and to encourage voluntary returns and encourage the people to participate in the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue. He said that his faction will continue to cooperate with the GoNU and the SLM's Minnawi faction to strive to realise the aspirations of the people of Darfur.

GoNU

(*Most local newspapers* – 25th Sept. **Khrt.**) 16 people have been arrested in connection to the murder of the Sudanese newspaper editor whose beheaded body was found earlier this month, Sudanese police said on Sunday.

Police chief Mahjub Hassan Saad told a press conference in Khartoum yesterday that there is no foreigner amongst the 16 suspects.

A sniffer dog had picked out two of the suspects because they had the smell of "objects found at the scene of the crime," said the police chief. He added however that more time will be required to unfold the mystery surrounding the murder.

The police say 3 Toyota Corollas have been held suspect in connection with the crime and one of them has been stolen and does not have rear seats. The police further added that they followed all telephone contacts to the house of the murdered editor and his office at the newspaper and went through the passenger lists at the Khartoum Airport for travellers before and after the crime and even analysed the articles he has written of late in a bid to find a clue to the crime.

The chief of police said it is likely that the editor was killed far from the place where the body was found and that he apparently knew the people who drew him out of the house.

Committee to unify national ranks to Darfur to meet armed groups of Darfur

(*AlSahafa* - 25th Sept. **Khrt**) The committee headed by former president AbdelRahman Suwar-el-Dahab starts contacts today with political forces inside and outside the country in a bid to launch its initiative to unite the national ranks and block an international intervention into the affairs of the country.

The official spokesperson for the committee said that the committee is composed of 50 members and will be meeting President Bashir tomorrow.

SPLM says not part in Vote of No Confidence against the speaker of the National assembly

(*Sudan Tribune* – 25th Sept. **Khrt.**) The Sudan's People Liberation Movement (SPLM) stated that it has not received any official statement or notification from any member at the National

Assembly calling for the relief of Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim AlTahir from his post at the National Assembly.

Atem Garang, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, described attempts currently under way to dispose and have vote of no confidence in Al-Tahir as political skirmishes which the SPLM is not party to.

Police to beef up presence in the capital

(*AlSudani* – 25th Sept. **Khrt.**) The head of the Police Forces confirmed that the number of police personally deployed currently in the capital Khartoum is only 25% of the proposed number required to secure the capital and that the police still needs to be fully deployed.

He added that these numbers should make the people feel more secure and should not worry them.

Southern Sudan/ GoSS

Constitution of Western Equatoria State handed to justice minister

(*Sudan Tribune*.25 Sept. **Khrt**) Delegation from Western Equatoria State has handed to the Sudanese minister of justice the draft constitution for WES.

The Minister of Justice, Mohamed Ali Al-Mardi, received at his office Saturday a delegation of the Legislative Assembly of the West Equatoria State, headed by Deputy Chairman of the council.

Darfur/DPA

SLM- Minnawi declares readiness to negotiate the DPA

(*Khartoum Monitor* – 25th Sept. **Khrt.**) The head of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), Mini Minnawi said his faction is ready to renegotiate the Darfur Peace Agreement, if the Government agrees, in order to persuade non- signatory movements on board.