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President Al-Bashir and Qatari Emir hold talks

Sudanese President Omer Al-Bashir met with Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, in Khartoum on Saturday to discuss implementation of the “good will” agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), as well as Sudanese-Chadian relations. The Emir’s visit comes in the wake of the recently signed “confidence-building agreement” signed last week in Doha. The Qatari Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Hamed Bin Jassem Al-Thani, told reporters that Qatar was “working towards convincing other armed movements to join in the peace talks” and stated that responses received so far were “positive.” (*Al-Watan, Al-Ayam*)

Al-Bashir and Al-Qaddafi have phone discussion

President Omer Al-Bashir and the Qatari Emir engaged in a phone conversation with Libyan leader Al-Qaddafi on Saturday. The three-party conversation covered “issues of common concern” as well as “means of normalizing Sudan’s ties with N’Djamena.” (*Sudan News Agency, Al-Watan, Al-Khartoum*)

Sudanese-Egyptian summit to be held in Cairo

A Sudanese-Egyptian summit, attended by President Al-Bashir, will be held in Cairo today. The purpose of the summit is to “discuss current developments in Sudan” and “current efforts being implemented in order to achieve peace in Darfur.” Al-Bashir is also scheduled to hold talks on the sidelines of the summit with Egyptian President Mubarak. (*Al-Watan, Al-Ayam*)

Al-Bashir issues amnesty for 24 people

- President Al-Bashir has issued a decree providing an amnesty for “24 people accused of disrupting the peace process in Darfur.” The amnesty comes in the context of “efforts being exerted to achieve peace in Darfur.” Abdel-Basit Sabdarat, the Sudanese Minister of Justice, stated that the names of those covered by the decree would be published soon. (*Al-Watan, Al-Sahafa*)

- According to the *Khartoum Monitor* (via *Reuters*), these 24 people are members of JEM.

JEM releases “over 18” SAF prisoners

Yesterday, JEM announced that it had released “over 18” members of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) held in their custody. The step comes in an effort to “demonstrate JEM’s commitment to the duly signed trust building agreement in Doha.” According to Ahmed Abbas, JEM’s political secretary, the “first batch of over eighteen SAF prisoners” was handed over to the Red Cross after the signing of the agreement with the Sudanese government. (*Radio MirayaFM*)

No-confidence vote against SPLM Chairperson

The Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) in South Kordofan State has passed a vote of no-confidence against chairperson and deputy-governor Daniel Kodi Angelo for “breaching the movement’s constitution.” (*Khartoum Monitor*)

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service of the Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. This summary does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.