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Sudan protesters want civilian as head

● Talks between the current ruling military council and the protest movement over the planned transfer of power are set to resume

● The generals and protest leaders are at loggerheads over the final composition of the next ruling body

Khartoum, Sudan

Sudan's protest movement said that it is determined to have a civilian as head of a new governing council ahead of negotiations Sunday with army rulers to finalise its makeup.

Talks between the current ruling military council and the protest movement over the planned transfer of power are



Sudanese hardline cleric Mohamed Ali Jazuli speaks as supporters of Islamist movements rally in front of the Presidential Palace in downtown Khartoum

set to resume amid international pressure to return to the table after the generals suspended the negotiations earlier this week.

The Alliance for Freedom and Change, the umbrella group that brought down autocratic leader Omar al-Bashir after

months-long protests against his three-decade rule, said the talks were set to begin at 9:00 pm (1900 GMT) Sunday.

The military council had announced the previous night that the new round of talks would be held at the presidential palace in Khartoum.

"The talks will revolve around outstanding issues concerning the representation in the sovereign council and its chairmanship," the alliance said in a statement.

The generals and protest leaders are at loggerheads over the final composition of the next ruling body, the thorniest issue so far in negotiations between the two sides.

The generals insist the new body be military-led but the protest leaders are determined to have a majority civilian body.

On Sunday the protest movement said it is determined to have a "civilian sovereign council led by a civilian as its chairman and having a limited military representation".

The current military council that took power after ousting

Bashir on April 11 is headed by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the generals negotiating with protesters have previously said that Burhan would lead the new governing body too.

Before talks were suspended the two sides had agreed on several key issues, including a three-year transition period and the creation of a 300-member parliament, with two thirds of lawmakers to come from the protesters' umbrella group.

But Sunday's negotiations come against the backdrop of rising tension after hundreds of supporters of several Islamic movements rallied outside the presidential palace to reject any civilian administration deal that excludes the Islamic law sharia as its guiding principle.

The Alliance for Freedom and Change has so far remained silent on whether sharia has a place in Sudan's future, arguing that its main concern now is installing a civilian administration.



Handguns are displayed during the 45th edition of the Arms Trade Fair, in Lucerne

Swiss vote to tighten gun laws, safeguard EU relations: early results

Geneva, Switzerland

The Swiss voted yesterday to toughen their gun laws and bring them in line with EU legislation, heeding warnings that rejecting the move could have threatened relations with the bloc, early results showed.

Exit polls and preliminary results released shortly after polls closed at noon (1000 GMT) indicated that voters overwhelmingly supported reforming Swiss gun laws.

According to projections by the gfs.bern polling institute, the reform received 66-percent backing in Sunday's referendum.

A demand from the neighbouring European Union that the Swiss toughen their gun laws has prompted a rare national debate over firearm ownership in the wealthy Alpine nation, which has a deeply-rooted gun culture.

While the government has cautioned that the new legislation is crucial to the non-EU country maintaining its treaties with the bloc, the proposal sparked a fierce pushback

from the gun lobby and shooting enthusiasts, who gathered enough signatures to trigger a vote under Switzerland's famous direct democratic system.

Brussels changed its own weapons laws two years ago following a wave of deadly terrorist attacks across Europe, slapping bans on certain types of semi-automatic firearms.

While not an EU member, Switzerland is bound to the bloc through an array of intricately connected bilateral agreements.

Bern had cautioned that a "No" vote would lead to Switzerland's exclusion from the visa-free Schengen travel region and also the Dublin accords regulating Europe's asylum-seeking process.

This would have far-reaching consequences for security, asylum and even tourism, and would cost the country "several billion Swiss francs each year," it said. The shooting enthusiasts behind Sunday's referendum meanwhile claim the government warnings are "exaggerated".

Austrian prez calls for Sept snap elections

Vienna, Austria

Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen said yesterday he wanted snap elections to take place in September after the government collapsed over a corruption scandal.

"My preference is for early elections in September, if possible the beginning of September," he told journalists after holding talks with Chancellor Sebastian Kurz. The legal procedures to fix the date will now have to take place over the coming weeks, with Van der Bellen set to hold

further talks with other party leaders.

The announcement came after a dramatic 48 hours in Austrian politics which saw far-right Vice-Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache resign in disgrace following explosive revelations in a hidden camera

sting. On Friday, two German newspapers published footage showing Strache openly discussing the possibility of awarding public contracts in return for campaign help for his far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ).

Thousands rally in Germany against nationalism before European vote

Berlin, Germany

Thousands of people marched in cities across Germany on Sunday to protest against nationalist and far-right parties looking to secure more seats in this week's European elections.

Recent polls show far-right parties like Italy's League, Germany's Alternative for Germany (AfD) party and French leader Marie Le Pen's National Rally (RN), are expected to do well in the vote for seats in European Parliament.

Sunday's rallies brought together more than 250 organisations under the banner "Against nationalism" in several cities including Frankfurt and Berlin, where thousands marched through the capital from the symbolic Alexanderplatz to the city's Victory column.

"I am here because I don't want to relive what a national-socialist party already did during my lifetime. That should never happen again," said Renate Foigt, 74.

Tender Invitation



Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) invites Insurance Companies to submit proposal for the following:

Tender title	Tender Document Fees	Initial Bond	Tender Closing Date
Group Medical & Life Insurance	BD 50/- (Non-refundable)	BD 1000/-	Monday, 01:00 p.m 10th June 2019

Guidelines for the submission of bids:

- 1- Paying of the tender document fees should be in favour of (Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry) with effect from Monday 20th May 2019, then collection of tender documents will be from the ("Financial Affairs Department") of BCCI, which is located at the 4th floor at ("Bait Al Tijjar") BCCI headquarters in Sanabis, between 08:00 to 13:00.
- 2- The following documents are to be enclosed with the bids:
 - An initial bond in the form of a certified cheque, bank guarantee or insurance certificate.
 - A valid copy of the Commercial Registration Certificate (CR).
- 3- All the documents submitted with the tender should be stamped with the company's seal.
- 4- The successful bidder should be / become a member of BCCI.
- 5- Offers must be submitted in sealed envelopes subscribed with the title of the tender, addressed to the "CEO", "Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry" and should be submitted to ("Financial Affairs Department") before the closing date & time.
- 6- This invitation is considered as part of the tender documents.

For more details

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