

# Sudan's new ruler vows civilian govt.

Defence Minister and intelligence chief quit as protesters keep up pressure on the military council

REUTERS  
KHARTOUM

The new head of Sudan's military council said on Saturday a civilian government would be formed after consultations with the opposition and the transition period would last for a maximum of two years, as protesters kept up pressure for rapid change.

In his first televised address, Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan Abdelrahman said he was also cancelling a night curfew ordered by his predecessor and ordered the release of all prisoners jailed under emergency laws ordered by ousted President Omar al-Bashir.

Mr. Bashir was overthrown on Thursday after weeks of mass protests brought on by rising food costs, high unemployment and increasing repression during his three decades in power.

Protest organisers had earlier on Saturday urged people to keep marching to demand a civilian government after the Defence Minister and the intelligence chief



**Powerful reminder:** A painting of Alaa Salah, a Sudanese woman propelled to Internet fame after clips went viral of her leading protest chants against former President Omar al-Bashir. • AFP

stepped down.

Thousands of people gathered in front of the Defence Ministry in central Khartoum. Salah Abdallah Mohamed Saleh, known as Salah Gosh, the former head of the National Intelligence and Security Service, quit on Saturday. He was once the most influential person in the country after Mr. Bashir and protesters held him responsible for the killing of demonstrators demanding an end to military rule.

Defence Minister Awad

Ibn Auf stepped down as head of the transitional military council late on Friday after only a day in the post.

Celebrations erupted on the streets of Khartoum overnight after Mr. Ibn Auf's resignation. Thousands of protesters waved flags and illuminated mobile phones in the darkness and drivers hooted car horns. People chanted: "The second has fallen!"

"Islamists have now lost control and they are in shock. Their ability to pro-

ject influence in an organised way inside the state appears weak," said Sudanese analyst Khalid al-Tijani.

**Pressure from protesters**

"The reason for the changes in Sudan is the pressure from protesters and pressures within the Army, and the fear among military commanders of a split in the armed forces."

Mr. Burhan, the new head of the military council, was the third most senior general in the Sudanese armed forces

and is little known in public life. As head of Sudan's ground forces, he oversaw Sudanese troops fighting in the Saudi-led Yemen war and has close ties to senior Gulf military officials.

The Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA), which has been leading protests to demand a civilian government, called for more demonstrations on Saturday.

"Today, we continue the march to finish the victory for our victorious revolution," the SPA said in a statement. "We assert that our revolution is continuing and will not retreat or deviate from its path until we achieve... our people's legitimate demands of handing over power to a civilian government," it said.

The protests against Mr. Bashir escalated last Saturday when thousands of demonstrators, apparently bolstered by change in Algeria following similar protests, marched towards the Defence Ministry in Khartoum to deliver a memorandum demanding the military side with them.

# Trump assails Omar with video of Sept. 11 attacks

Targets her for speech on civil rights and Muslims in America

MAGGIE HABERMAN

President Donald Trump on Friday targeted Democrat Representative from Minnesota, Ilhan Omar, for remarks she made during a speech on civil rights and Muslims in America with a graphic video featuring the burning World Trade Center towers and other images from Sept. 11, 2001, that he tweeted to millions of his followers.

The Twitter post from the President stoked a controversy that has been a focus of conservative news outlets, which have sought to elevate Ms. Omar, one of the first Muslim women elected to Congress, as a political target as Mr. Trump's reelection campaign begins in earnest.

**'Second-class citizens'**

At issue were remarks that Ms. Omar made last month at an event hosted by the Council on American-Islamic Relations. There, she gave a speech in which she addressed lingering fear directed at Muslims, and the rights Muslims have to speak out about being viewed with suspicion.

During the speech, she said that Muslims had "lived with the discomfort of being a second-class citizen and, frankly, I'm tired of it, and every single Muslim in this country should be tired of it." She added that the council was created after the Sept. 11 attacks "because they recognized that some people did something and that all of us were starting to lose access to our civil liberties." (The Council on American-Islamic Relations was actually founded in 1994.)

Conservative news outlets



**Point of view:** Minnesota Representative Ilhan Omar. • REUTERS

and some Republican officials have focused on the words "some people did something," arguing that Ms. Omar was playing down the attacks that killed more than 3,000 people and led to two wars. The video the President tweeted also focused on those four words from Ms. Omar's speech.

A spokesman for Ms. Omar said the speech was addressing civil rights. Ms. Omar has already been the focus of threats, including one by a Mr. Trump supporter who was recently arrested.

**'Don't be complicit'**

Ms. Omar's closest ally in the House, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (Democrat, New York), used Twitter to defend her colleague. "Members of Congress have a duty to respond to the President's explicit attack today," she tweeted. "@IlhanMN's life is in danger. For our colleagues to be silent is to be complicit in the outright, dangerous targeting of a member of Congress."

Senator Bernie Sanders (Independent, Vermont), who is running for President as a Democrat, quickly joined Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. "Ilhan Omar is a leader with

strength and courage. She won't back down to Trump's racism and hate, and neither will we," he tweeted. "The disgusting and dangerous attacks against her must end."

In a series of tweets, Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, a Democratic presidential candidate and a veteran who served in Afghanistan, also criticised Mr. Trump.

"After 9/11 we all said we were changed. That we were stronger and more united," he tweeted. "That's what 'never forget' was about. Now, a President uses that dark day to incite his base against a member of Congress, as if for sport. As if we learned nothing that day about the workings of hate."

Another presidential candidate, Senator Elizabeth Warren (Democrat, Massachusetts), said, "The President is inciting violence against a sitting Congresswoman - and an entire group of Americans based on their religion," she tweeted. "It's disgusting. It's shameful."

It was unclear who made the video that the President tweeted. In recent weeks, his Twitter feed has promoted at least two controversial videos that came from elsewhere on the web. NY TIMES

## IN BRIEF



**Assange: MPs urge U.K. to cooperate with Sweden**

LONDON  
More than 70 British lawmakers have urged the government to prioritise any extradition bid Sweden might make for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who is also wanted in the U.S. The MPs urged British Home Secretary Sajid Javid to "give every assistance to Sweden should they want to revive and pursue the investigation". AFP

**Student's hijab pulled off by schoolmate in U.S.**

NEW YORK  
A high school Muslim student's hijab was pulled off allegedly by a schoolmate who also hurled anti-Muslim slurs during a fight in the U.S., prompting authorities to arrest her. The incident happened after an argument broke out between the two over occupying a seat on the campus, an official said. PTI

**New attacks as Taliban begins spring offensive**

KABUL  
Violence gripped Afghanistan on Saturday, as the Taliban launched its spring offensive. A government official said two Afghan troops were killed, along with 27 insurgents in Nangarhar. At least eight people were killed and 62 wounded in an attack near Kunduz. In Ghor, at least seven security forces were killed in a Taliban ambush. AFP

**Vehicle rams Ukraine embassy car, one held**

LONDON  
The police opened fire outside Ukraine's embassy in London on Saturday after a vehicle rammed the Ambassador's parked car and then drove at officers called to the scene. The suspect has been arrested. AFP

## 'Will send migrants to sanctuary cities'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday he is seriously considering funneling detained illegal migrants into the self-declared sanctuary cities that oppose his tough immigration policies.

Mr. Trump's announcement on Twitter reversed a previous White House assurance that the idea - criticised as political retribution against cities led by Opposition Democrats - had been dropped. "Due to the fact that Democrats are unwilling to change our very danger-

ous immigration laws, we are indeed, as reported, giving strong considerations to placing Illegal Immigrants in Sanctuary Cities," Mr. Trump said. "The Radical Left always seems to have an Open Borders, Open Arms policy - so this should make them very happy!" he tweeted.

The Washington Post revealed the proposal, which would mark a new flashpoint in the ever growing political divide over immigration. Mr. Trump has staked his presidency on his insistence that the United States is being

overrun by migrants and asylum seekers. But opponents, mostly in the Democratic Party, say his push for building more walls on the Mexican border and his almost daily denunciations of migrants as dangerous criminals incite racial hatred.

**Tighten visas: Trump**

In comments to reporters later, Mr. Trump said that he wanted Congress, where the House of Representatives is controlled by Democrats, to tighten visas and streamline the deportation process. Otherwise, he warned, he'll

order migrants to be dumped on the sanctuary cities. "If they don't agree we might as well do what they say they want... We'll bring them to sanctuary city areas and let that particular area take care of it," he said.

And late on Friday, he reiterated his call for a "merit" based immigration system. "If the Radical Left Democrats all of a sudden don't want the Illegal Migrants in their Sanctuary Cities (no more open arms), why should others be expected to take them into their communities?" he tweeted.

## Kim open to another summit with Trump, with conditions

'U.S. style of unilaterally pushing its demands doesn't fit us'

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
PYONGYANG

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said he is open to a third summit with President Donald Trump, but set the year's end as a deadline for Washington to offer mutually acceptable terms for an agreement to salvage the high-stakes nuclear diplomacy, the North's state-run media said on Saturday.

Mr. Kim made the comments during a speech on Friday at a session of North Korea's rubber stamp parliament, which made a slew of personnel changes that bolstered his diplomatic lineup amid stalemated negotiations with the United States.

His speech came hours after Mr. Trump and visiting South Korean President Moon Jae-in met in Washington and agreed on the importance of nuclear talks with North Korea.



Kim Jong-un with Donald Trump, in this file photo.

"We of course place importance on resolving problems through dialogue and negotiations. But U.S.-style dialogue of unilaterally pushing its demands doesn't fit us, and we have no interest in it," Mr. Kim said.

According to the Korean Central News Agency, Mr. Kim blamed the collapse of his summit with Mr. Trump in February on what he described as unilateral demands by the United States, which he said raised questions over whether Washing-

ton has genuine willingness to improve relations. But he said his personal relationship with Mr. Trump remains good and that they could exchange letters at "any time."

Mr. Trump responded to the remarks by saying he agreed with Mr. Kim about their relationship, and also expressed a desire for another summit. "I agree with Kim Jong-un that our personal relationship remains very good, perhaps the term excellent would be more accurate, and that a third Summit would be good in that we fully understand where we each stand," he tweeted. "I look forward to the day, which could be soon, when Nuclear Weapons and Sanctions can be removed, and then watching North Korea become one of the most successful nations of the World!"

## China enlarges its circle in Europe

Italy and Greece have joined BRI; it has lined up investments in other countries

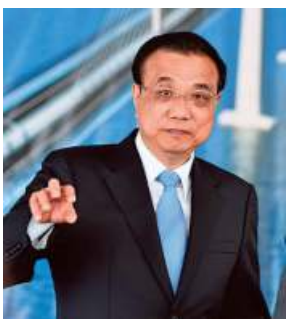
MARC SANTORA  
BRISTOL

China's Premier surveyed construction of a long-sought bridge over Croatia's Mali Ston Bay, home to China's largest infrastructure project in Europe - built by a Chinese company with Chinese workers, and financed in large part by EU money.

A driving rain lashed the hills while Li Keqiang was there on Thursday. But, Mr. Li declared. "This bridge will be a rainbow on earth."

The reassuring language was part of a broader effort to convince increasingly sceptical European nations that China comes in peace.

Fresh from a summit meeting with EU leaders this week, Mr. Li arrived in Cro-



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

tia for the annual meeting of an economic bloc that China has forged with 16 Central and Eastern European nations.

The thickening ranks of China's economic allies have left European officials increasingly wary. Last month, Italy formally signed on to

China's vast Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). On Friday, the summit was capped by Greece's announcement that it had joined, too.

**Dragon head**

China has already moved ahead with plans to make the Greek port of Piraeus the "dragon head" of its infrastructure push, and it has stepped up investment in Greece, which is still smarting from the austerity measures imposed by its European partners.

China's presence is no longer a novelty in this part of Europe, where its track record is decidedly more complicated than it was when the economic bloc was formed.

For instance, after years of investments failing to materialise, Poland, the largest nation in the group and once one of its biggest champions, has cooled on China. The arrest in Poland of a Chinese regional director of the tech giant Huawei underscored the changing nature of the relationship.

In fact, the pace of Chinese investment in Europe has slowed for the past two years, according to the Mercator Institute for Chinese Studies.

In 2018, there was more than \$19 billion in direct Chinese investment in Europe, a decline of 40% from 2017, and more than 50 percent from the 2016 peak of around \$42 billion. NY TIMES