

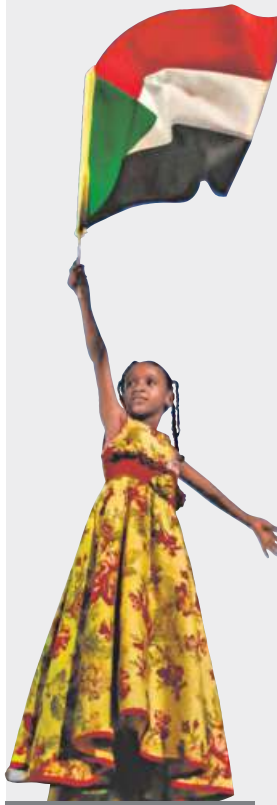
Sudan protesters call for civilian govt.

A 10-member delegation of demonstrators had delivered a list of demands during talks on Saturday

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE KHARTOUM Sudanese protest organisers on Monday demanded that the new military council be scrapped...

Road to transition

Sudan has been rocked by unrest for nearly four months. Here is a brief timeline:



A Sudanese girl outside the Army headquarters in Khartoum.

DEC. 19, 2018: Hundreds protest in Atbara, other cities against tripling of bread price

DEC. 20: Protests spread to the capital, calling for regime change

DEC. 24: President Omar al-Bashir breaks silence, vows 'real reforms'

JAN. 1, 2019: 22 political groups issue call for a 'new regime'

JAN. 5: Bashir sacks Health Minister over the rising medicine costs

JAN. 13: Protests spread to war-torn Darfur region

FEB. 21: Security agents arrest several activists

FEB. 22: Bashir declares nationwide, year-long state of emergency

FEB. 24: New Prime Minister sworn in even as riot police confront protesters

MARCH 1: President hands power as the chief of ruling party to his deputy

APRIL 4: Bashir acknowledges that protesters

have 'legitimate' economic concerns, calls for dialogue... APRIL 6: Thousands start protest outside the Army headquarters...

APRIL 9: Police follow military's non-intervention policy. Official death toll in protests reported at 49

APRIL 11: The Army announces that Bashir has been removed from power and detained. A transitional military council will replace Bashir for two years, it says

APRIL 12: The head of Sudan's new ruling military council, General Awad Ibn Ouf, resigns just a day after being sworn in. He names General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan to succeed him

APRIL 15: Tenth day of protests outside the Army headquarters. Protesters demand transfer of power to a new civilian government

- Key demands: An immediate transfer of power to a transitional civilian government to govern for a four-year term, followed by elections... The dissolution of Bashir's National Congress Party... The re-instatement of the country's 2005 Constitution...



Omar al-Bashir



General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan

Source: AFP

an AFP correspondent at the meeting said.

"We want to set up a civilian state based on freedom, justice and democracy," a council member, Lieutenant General Yasser al-Ata, told members of several political parties.

Democratic transition

The Foreign Ministry said military council head General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan was 'committed to having a complete civilian government' and urged other nations to back the council in order to achieve 'the Sudanese goal of democratic transition'.

General Burhan has pledged that individuals implicated in killing protesters would be held to account and that demonstrators detained under a state of emergency imposed by the President during his final weeks in power would be freed.

The SPA says Mr. Bashir must also face justice, along with officials from his feared National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) whose chief Salih Ghosh resigned on Saturday.

As part of the shake-up at the top, a new NISS head and Army Chief of Staff have been appointed.

Mr. Bashir ruled Sudan with an iron fist for 30 years before he was deposed last week following mass protests that have rocked the country since December.

The SPA has additionally called for the confiscation of properties belonging to the ousted President's National Congress Party and the release of soldiers who sided with their movement.

Late on Sunday, the military council said it has set up a committee to register NCP properties and seize control of them.

Boeing should fix, rebrand its 737 MAX plane, says Trump

No product has suffered like this one, says U.S. President

REUTERS WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Monday urged Boeing Co to fix and 'rebrand' its 737 MAX jetliner following two fatal crashes, as regulators worldwide continue to work with the planemaker to review its grounded best-selling aircraft.

The Federal Aviation Administration has been meeting major airlines and convened a joint review with aviation regulators from other countries, while federal prosecutors, the U.S. Department of Transportation inspector general's office and a blue-ribbon panel are reviewing the plane's certification.

'Add some features' In an early-morning post on Twitter, Mr. Trump weighed in with his own advice. 'What do I know about branding, maybe nothing



A Boeing 737 flown by American Airlines in Arlington, Virginia.

(but I did become President), but if I were Boeing, I would FIX the Boeing 737 MAX, add some additional great features, & REBRAND the plane with a new name. No product has suffered like this one. But again, what the hell do I know?' Mr. Trump tweeted.

The plane's grounding has also threatened the U.S. summer travel season, with some airlines removing the 737 from their schedules through August. Mr. Trump issued the tweet as Boeing tries to restore trust in its fastest-selling jet, the main source of profits and cash at the Chicago-

based planemaker which has won some 5,000 orders or around seven years of production for the aircraft.

Chief Executive Dennis Muilenburg has apologized on behalf of Boeing for lives lost in two recent accidents and promised that it would address the risk that flight software meant to prevent the plane stalling could be activated by wrong data.

Boeing has also held dozens of briefings and simulator sessions for airline executives and pilots and held worldwide meetings with airline branding and communications staff.

Assange tried to use Embassy to spy, says Ecuador President Moreno

REUTERS LONDON

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange repeatedly violated his asylum conditions and tried to use the Ecuadorian Embassy in London as a centre for spying, Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno told The Guardian.

London police dragged Mr. Assange out of the Embassy on Thursday after his seven-year asylum was revoked, paving the way for his extradition to the U.S. for one of the biggest ever leaks of classified information.

Mr. Assange's relationship

with his hosts collapsed after Ecuador accused him of leaking information about Mr. Moreno's personal life.

Mr. Moreno denied to The Guardian that he had acted as a reprisal for the way in which documents about his family had been leaked.

He said he regretted that Mr. Assange had used the Embassy to interfere in other country's democracies. 'Any attempt to destabilise is a reprehensible act for Ecuador, because we are a sovereign nation and respectful of the politics of each country,' Mr. Moreno told

The Guardian by email. 'We cannot allow our house, the house that opened its doors, to become a centre for spying, he was quoted as saying.

Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Jose Valencia said that Mr. Assange's behavior was 'undeserving, disrespectful' and pointed to a video published by El Pais newspaper. The short video with no audio appears to show Mr. Assange arguing with an official inside the Ecuadorian Embassy. 'An image is worth a thousand words, and there are several images,' Mr. Valencia said.

ELSEWHERE



Moon pushes for another meet with Kim

South Korea's President Moon Jae-in said on Monday he will pursue 'in earnest' another summit with Kim Jong-un despite the North Korean leader's recent criticism of Seoul's self-proclaimed role as a mediator in stalled nuclear talks.

U.S. gay Mayor launches presidential bid

Pete Buttigieg, the gay, liberal Mayor of a small city in the conservative bastion of Indiana, officially launched his presidential bid on Sunday, joining a crowded field of Democrats vying for their party's nomination.

Taliban team in peace talks talks to include women

Women will be included for the first time in the Taliban delegation to talks this month with U.S. officials and Afghan representatives in Qatar over the future of Afghanistan, the movement's main spokesman said on Monday.

No plans to run for office, says Nooyi

Former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi says she has no plans to run for office but in her post-retirement time she will focus on finding solutions for an impending crisis due to a shortage of caregivers to look after children and the elderly.

Fire devastates Paris' iconic Notre-Dame cathedral

French police are treating the incident as an accident

REUTERS PARIS

Notre-Dame Cathedral went up in flames on Monday in a roaring blaze that devastated the Parisian landmark, one of France's most visited places. Flames burst through the roof of the centuries-old cathedral and quickly engulfed the spire, which collapsed.

A huge plume of smoke wafted across the city and ash fell over a large area. Firefighters cleared the area around the cathedral, which marks the very centre of Paris.

President Emmanuel Macron cancelled an address to the nation that he had been due to give later on Monday evening.



Landmark on fire: Flames burst through the roof of the Notre-Dame cathedral and engulfed the spire.

A presidential official said Mr. Macron was to go to the scene of the blaze. 'A terrible fire is under way at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris,' Mayor Anne Hidalgo tweeted. France 2 television reported that police were

treating the incident as an accident.

Notre-Dame was in the midst of renovations, with some sections under scaffolding and bronze statues having been removed last week for works.

Omar says she received death threats

Lawmaker accuses Trump of fomenting extremism after retweet of video

ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON

Representative Ilhan Omar said she has faced increased death threats since President Donald Trump spread around a video that purported to show her being dismissive of the 2001 terrorist attacks. 'This is endangering lives,' she said, accusing Mr. Trump of fomenting right-wing extremism. 'It has to stop.'

Mr. Trump further escalated the stand-off on Monday morning, tweeting that, 'Before Nancy [Pelosi], who has lost all control of Congress and is getting nothing done, decides to defend her leader, Rep. Omar, she should look at the anti-Semitic, anti-Israel and ungrateful U.S. HATE statements Omar has made'. 'She is out of control, except for her control of Nancy!' Mr.

Trump added. Ms. Pelosi was among Democrats who had criticised Trump over the tweet, with some accusing him of trying to incite violence against the Muslim lawmaker. An upstate New York man recently was charged with making death threats against her.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders defended Mr. Trump earlier on Sunday, saying the President has a duty to highlight Ms. Omar's history of making comments that others deem anti-Semitic or otherwise offensive and that he wished no 'ill will' upon the first-term lawmaker.

'Crimes on the rise' But Ms. Omar said that since Mr. Trump retweeted the video Friday night, she has received many threats on her life that referred or replied to



Ilhan Omar.

the posted video. 'Violent crimes and other acts of hate by right-wing extremists and white nationalists are on the rise in this country and around the world,' she said. 'We can no longer ignore that they are being encouraged by the occupant of the highest office in the land.' She said: 'We are all Americans.'

Earlier, Ms. Pelosi issued a

statement while travelling in London saying she had spoken with congressional authorities 'to ensure that Capitol Police are conducting a security assessment to safeguard Congresswoman Omar, her family and her staff.' Ms. Pelosi said officials will continue to monitor and assess threats against Ms. Omar and called on Mr. Trump to discourage such behaviour. 'The President's words weigh a ton, and his hateful and inflammatory rhetoric creates real danger,' Ms. Pelosi said. 'President Trump must take down his disrespectful and dangerous video.'

Neither Mr. Trump's tweet nor the video included Ms. Omar's the context of her comments, which were about Muslims feeling that their civil liberties had eroded after the attacks.

China is using AI to profile Uighur Muslims

Facial recognition technology being used not just in Xinjiang but also in wealthy cities like Hangzhou

PAUL MOZUR

The Chinese government has drawn wide international condemnation for its harsh crackdown on ethnic Muslims in its western region, including holding as many as one million of them in detention camps.

Now, documents and interviews show that authorities are also using a vast, secret system of advanced facial recognition technology to track and control the Uighurs. It is the first known example of a government intentionally using artificial intelligence for racial profiling, experts said.

Keeping records

The facial recognition technology, which is integrated into China's rapidly expanding networks of surveillance cameras, looks exclusively for Uighurs based on their appearance and keeps records of their comings and

goings for search and review. The practice makes China a pioneer in applying next-generation technology to watch its people, potentially ushering in a new era of automated racism.

The technology and its use to keep tabs on China's 11 million Uighurs were described by five people with direct knowledge of the systems. The New York Times also reviewed databases used by the police, government procurement documents and advertising materials distributed by the AI companies that make the systems.

Chinese authorities already maintain a vast surveillance net, including tracking people's DNA, in the western region of Xinjiang. But the scope of the new systems extends that monitoring into many other corners of the country. Police are now using facial recognition technology to target Uighurs in wealthy eastern cities like



Targeting a minority: Shoppers lining up for identification checks outside the Kashgar Bazaar in Xinjiang.

Hangzhou and Wenzhou and across the coastal province of Fujian, said two of the people. Law enforcement in the central Chinese city of Sanmenxia ran a system that over the course of a month this year screened whether residents were Uighurs 5,000,000 times. A new generation of start-

ups catering to Beijing's authoritarian needs are beginning to set the tone for emerging technologies like artificial intelligence.

From a technology standpoint, using algorithms to label people based on race or ethnicity has become relatively easy. Companies like IBM advertise software that

can sort people into broad groups.

Breaking new ground

But China has broken new ground by identifying one ethnic group for law enforcement purposes. One Chinese startup, CloudWalk, outlined a simple experience in marketing its own surveillance systems. The technology, it said, could recognise 'sensitive groups of people.'

In practice, the systems are imperfect, two of the people said. Often, their accuracy depends on environmental factors like lighting and the positioning of cameras. And while facial recognition technology uses aspects like skin tone and face shapes to sort images in photos or videos, it must be told by humans to categorise people based on social definitions of race or ethnicity. Chinese police, with the help of the startups, have done that.

China ready to wait for India's BRI participation

Key event to take place later in April

ATUL ANEJA BEIJING

China on Monday signalled that it was ready to wait for India's participation in President Xi Jinping's signature Belt and Road Initiative, but also pointed to possible downside to New Delhi's delay in participating in the giant connectivity project.

In response to a question on the likelihood of India's non-participation in the upcoming Belt and Road Forum (BRF) that will take place later this month, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang stressed that Beijing was ready to exercise patience. He highlighted that 'if the relevant side would like to wait and see, we do not oppose that.'

The spokesperson's remarks align with China's perception about India's participation in BRI following last April's Wuhan infor-

mal summit between President Xi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In August, Zhang Jun, China's Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, said that India was China's 'natural partner' in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

But during the media briefing on Monday, Mr. Lu emphasised that India could be negatively impacted if it arrived as latecomer in the BRI family.

In an obvious reference to New Delhi, the spokesperson said that 'some countries will lose some opportunities as more international organisations are participating at the (BRF) event.'

Citing sovereignty concerns, India has not joined the BRI, following the establishment the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.