

Bread, bloodshed, revolution

The ruling military council of Sudan has signed a power-sharing deal with the civilian opposition, charting a path to elections and an eventual rule by civilians

Dec. 19, 2018: Protests erupt against a government decision to triple bread prices, taking the form of weekly demonstrations and morphing into calls for long-time President Omar al-Bashir to quit

April 6, 2019: Thousands gather outside the Army headquarters in Khartoum

April 11: Military authorities announce Bashir's removal from power and say that a transitional military council



Parties involved
The Transitional Military Council, which includes top military figures, assumed power after Bashir's resignation

Opposition
The Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC) coalition is led by Sudanese Professionals Association, a collaboration of doctors, health workers and lawyers



A mural in Khartoum in April on the protests. • AFP

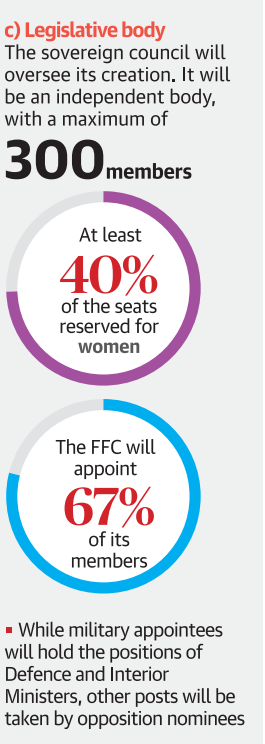
KEY POINTS IN THE AGREEMENT

39 months
The civilian -military alliance will last for 39 months, leading to elections

Centres of power It will be vested in three bodies:

a) Sovereign council
11 members - 5 from the opposition, five from military and one civilian chosen by consensus
▪ A General, the head of the armed forces, will head it for 21 months and a civilian for the remaining 18

b) Cabinet: A Prime Minister, nominated by the Opposition, is heading the Cabinet



Sudanese military, civilians sign transition deal

Declaration formalises the creation of an interim administration with 11 members — 6 civilians and 5 military figures

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE KHARTOUM
Rapturous crowds filled the streets of Khartoum on Saturday as Sudan's generals and protest leaders signed a historic deal paving the way to civilian rule.

Thousands of cheering people gathered around the Friendship Hall next to the Nile, where the documents that will govern Sudan's 39-month transition were signed.

"This is the biggest celebration I have ever seen in my country. We have a new Sudan," said Saba Mohammed, 37.

Minutes earlier, the deal was signed by Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, deputy chief of the military council, and Ahmed al-Rabie, representing the Alliance for Freedom and Change protest umbrella. Heads of state, Prime Ministers and dignitaries from several countries — including

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Egypt's Premier Mustafa Madbuli — attended the ceremony.

The constitutional declaration formalises the creation of a transition administration that will be guided by an 11-member sovereign council, comprised of six civilians and five military figures.

End to upheaval
The agreement brought an end to nearly eight months of upheaval that saw masses mobilise against President Omar al-Bashir, who was ousted in April after 30 years in power.

Thousands of people arrived on trains from Sudan's provinces to take part in the celebrations, which will include a huge gathering in Khartoum's main gardens.

The composition of the civilian-majority transition council is to be announced on Sunday.



Jubilant in the streets: Sudanese people celebrating in Khartoum following the signing of a power-sharing deal between the military and the opposition on Saturday. • AFP

That follows the naming on Thursday of former senior UN official Abdalla Hamdok, a veteran economist, as transitional Prime Minister. He is expected to focus on stabilising Sudan's economy, which went into a tailspin

when the oil-rich south seceded in 2011. Economic woes were the trigger that sparked the initial protests.

At Khartoum's central market early on Saturday, shoppers and stallholders interviewed by AFP all said they hoped a civilian govern-

ment would help them put food on the table.

"Everybody is happy now," said Ali Yusef, a 19-year-old university student who works in the market to get by.

While it remains to be seen how the transition will change people's daily lives, residents old and young were eager to exercise their new-found freedom of expression.

"I'm 72 and for 30 years under Bashir, I had nothing to feel good about. Now, thanks to God, I am starting to breathe," said Ali Issa Abdel Momen, sitting in front of his modest selection of vegetables at the market.

Little leverage
But many Sudanese are already questioning the ability of the transitional institutions to rein in the military elite's powers during the three-year period leading to

planned elections. The Interior and Defence Ministers are to be chosen by military members of the transition council.

Observers have warned that the transitional government will have little leverage to counter any attempt by the military to roll back the uprising's achievements and seize back power.

One of the most immediate diplomatic consequences of the compromise reached this month could be Sudan's return to the African Union (AU), which suspended the country's membership in June.

Mr. Bashir, who took power in a 1989 coup and is wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of genocide in the Darfur region, had been slated to appear in court on Saturday on corruption charges. But his trial has been postponed to an as yet undetermined date.

Rival groups hold rallies as Hong Kong's divisions deepen

Pro-govt. supporters take out a rally with Chinese flags

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE HONG KONG

Hong Kong democracy activists kicked off a weekend of fresh rallies on Saturday in a major test for the movement following criticism over an airport protest earlier this week — and as concerns mount over Beijing's next move.

The new marches came as thousands of pro-government supporters — many waving Chinese flags — gathered in a park to condemn their opponents and support the police, a stark illustration of the polarisation now coursing through the city. Ten weeks of demonstrations have plunged the inter-



A rally in central London in support of the Hong Kong protests. • AFP

national finance hub into crisis, with communist-ruled mainland China taking

'Kim oversaw launch of new weapon'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un once again supervised a "new weapon" launch, state media said on Saturday, complicating efforts at denuclearisation ahead of next week's visit to Seoul by the U.S. envoy to Pyongyang.

Friday's launch was the North's sixth test in recent weeks as it protests the annual U.S.-South Korea military exercises.

Defence officials in Seoul said Pyongyang fired what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles on Friday, which flew some 230 km before splashing down in the sea between the Korean peninsula and Japan.

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U.S. President briefed on Afghan talks

Just completed a very good meeting, tweets Trump

REUTERS BRIDGEWATER/WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump was briefed on Friday by top advisers on the status of negotiations with the Taliban on a U.S. troop pull-out from Afghanistan and the potential for a political settlement between the warring sides.

There was no indication that any conclusions were reached at the session, which took place in a secure conference room at Mr. Trump's golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey. "Just completed a very good meeting on Afghanistan. Many on the opposite side of this 19-year war, and us, are looking to make a deal — if possible!" Mr. Trump said in a tweet after the session.

A U.S. defense official said significant differences re-

mained between the United States and the Taliban after an eighth round of talks ended in Qatar on Monday.

Some 14,000 U.S. troops remain engaged in America's longest war, training and advising Afghan security forces and conducting counterinsurgency operations against militant groups such as al-Qaeda and Islamic State's local affiliate.

'Meeting went well'
U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement issued after the meeting that the United States remains committed "achieving a comprehensive peace agreement, including a reduction in violence and a ceasefire" in Afghanistan.

Mr. Trump and Mr. Pompeo were joined for the talks

by Vice-President Mike Pence, National Security Adviser John Bolton, Defense Secretary Mike Esper, Joint Chiefs chairman General Joseph Dunford and CIA Director Gina Haspel. "The meeting went very well, and negotiations are proceeding," the White House said in a statement.

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, a Trump ally, said any deal should allow the U.S. to maintain a military presence in Afghanistan to pursue terrorist groups. "Any peace agreement which denies the U.S. a robust counterterrorism capability in Afghanistan is not a peace deal," he said. "Instead, it is paving the way for another attack on the American homeland and attacks against American interests..."



Italy to allow minors to disembark from ship

ROME
Italy's Interior Minister Matteo Salvini said on Saturday that he would allow minors to disembark from a migrant rescue ship with 134 people aboard, after being at sea for two weeks. AP

Nine killed as fire breaks out in Ukraine's Odessa

KIEV
Nine people were killed in a hotel fire in Ukraine's port city of Odessa on Saturday, leading authorities to launch a country-wide inspection of safety regulations in holiday resorts and hotels. The fire broke out at 1.34 a.m. in the southern city's Tokyo Star hotel. AFP

SUDOKU

6		4			5	3	1	
		9			2	4		
5		3			1		2	
						5		2
				8				
3		7						
	3		5			8		9
		5	7				4	
	4	8	6			2		5

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	8	1	5	6	2	3	9	4
9	3	5	8	4	7	2	6	1
4	2	6	9	3	1	8	5	7
6	1	3	4	9	8	7	2	5
2	7	9	1	5	6	4	3	8
8	5	4	2	7	3	6	1	9
5	4	2	6	8	9	1	7	3
1	9	7	3	2	4	5	8	6
3	6	8	7	1	5	9	4	2

Epstein committed suicide, rules autopsy

His body was found in a jail cell

REUTERS NEW YORK

New York City's Chief Medical Examiner determined on Friday that suicide by hanging was the cause of death for financier Jeffrey Epstein, whose body was found six days ago in a Manhattan jail cell while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges. The sparsely worded official announcement detailing the autopsy conclusions rebutted a host of conspiracy theories that had circulated on social media about the death of the well-connected former money manager.

Lawyers 'not satisfied'
Epstein's lawyers said they were "not satisfied" with the medical examiner's conclusions and planned to carry out their own investigation, seeking prison videos taken around the time of his death.

Epstein, 66, was found



Jeffrey Epstein. • AP

unresponsive on Saturday in his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC), triggering investigations into the circumstances of his death.

Chief Medical Examiner Barbara Sampson said her determination of the cause of death came after a "careful review of all investigative information, including complete autopsy findings."

"Cause: Hanging. Manner: Suicide," the statement said, without providing supporting details for Ms. Sampson's findings.

May God ruin Trump: Tlaib's grandmother

Muftia reacts to President's tweet on Congresswoman's rejection of Israeli offer

REUTERS BEIT UR AL-FAUQA

Sitting under an olive tree in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Muftia Tlaib, 90, scoffs at the attention she has recently received from the President of the United States. "May God ruin him," she says.

Ms. Muftia is the grandmother of U.S. Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, at the centre of an episode that has drawn Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu together against U.S. Democrats.

On Thursday, bowing to pressure from Mr. Trump, Israel barred a visit by Rashida Tlaib and fellow Democrat Ilhan Omar that it had initially said it would allow.

The next day, Israel said it would let Ms. Rashida Tlaib visit her family in the West Bank on humanitarian grounds — but she rejected the offer, saying that Israel had imposed restrictions meant to humiliate her.

On Friday night, Mr.



Still hopeful: Muftia, the grandmother of U.S. Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, outside her house in the village of Beit Ur Al-Fauqa, West Bank, on Friday. • REUTERS

Trump tweeted: "Rep. Tlaib wrote a letter to Israeli officials desperately wanting to visit her grandmother. Permission was quickly granted, whereupon Tlaib obnoxiously turned the approval down, a complete setup. The only real winner here is Tlaib's grandmother. She doesn't have to see her now!"

Ms. Muftia, sitting in her garden in the village of Beit Ur Al-Fauqa, was not impressed. "Trump tells me I

U.S. issues warrant to seize Iran tanker

Gibraltar court had ordered its release

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE GIBRALTAR

A last-minute U.S. warrant to seize an Iranian tanker preparing to leave Gibraltar after weeks of detention cast doubt over its departure on Saturday, prolonging a diplomatic spat between Tehran, London and Washington.

The U.S. Justice Department alleged the ship was part of a scheme "to unlawfully access the U.S. financial system to support illicit shipments to Syria from Iran by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps", which Washington has designated a foreign terrorist organisation.

There was no comment from Britain or Gibraltar, its overseas territory, over whether they would act on the warrant.

Gibraltar seized the ship on July 4 on suspicion it was transporting oil to Syria in breach of European sanctions, triggering a sharp deterioration in relations between Tehran and London. Iran has repeatedly denied this. On Thursday, Gibraltar's Supreme Court ordered the tanker released after the British overseas territory said it had received assurances from Iran that the Grace 1 would not head to any country subject to EU sanctions.

South Yemeni separatists quit some Aden posts

But retain camps to control port

REUTERS ADEN/DUBAI

Southern Yemeni separatists withdrew on Saturday from some government buildings in Aden that they seized last week but held on to military camps that give them control over the southern port, interim seat of Yemen's ousted Saudi-backed government.

The separatists' takeover of Aden has strained a Saudi-led military coalition formed to confront the Iranian-aligned Houthis, who bombed a Saudi oil facility on Saturday.

A Houthi spokesman said 10 drones launched towards oil installations at Shaybah in eastern Saudi Arabia constituted the "biggest attack in the depths" of the kingdom. The state oil company

Saudi Aramco said the attack had caused a "limited fire" at a gas plant which had been contained and had not affected production.

Houthi leader Abdel-Malek al-Houthi said events in Aden showed the coalition was in crisis and that Mr. Hadi was powerless. "Those who supported the aggressors... have no authority or freedom, but are subservient to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates," the group's Al Masirah TV quoted him as saying.

He said the strike on Saudi oil assets near the border with the United Arab Emirates was also a warning to the UAE, which has scaled down its military presence in the coalition but continued to funds and arm the southern separatists.