

Nine hurt in accident at fireworks show in French resort

Toulouse, France a

Nine people were injured during a fireworks display in a popular resort in southern France when one rocket misfired close to onlookers on the beach, firefighters said yesterday.

Three of those hurt in the incident in on Friday night in Collioure were taken to hospital after the device “exploded very low” and rained down sparks on some of the 80,000 crowd, firefighters and the local prefecture said.

One person remained in hospital after surgery for a shoulder fracture.

The misfiring rocket was part of a show on a barge just off the port of Collioure, a small picturesque seaside town near the Spanish border whose 3,000 population mushrooms around 30-fold with summer tourists.

Three doctors on site swiftly intervened to treat those injured, the local prefecture said, adding local police have opened an investigation into the incident.

Customer kills French waiter in sandwich spat

Bobigny, France

A waiter at restaurant near Paris was shot dead by a customer angry at having to wait for a sandwich, a source close to the case said yesterday.

Colleagues of the victim called police after he was shot him with a hand gun at an eatery in the eastern Paris suburb

of Noisy-le-Grand on Friday night, the source said.

Attempts to revive the 28-year-old failed and he died at the scene.

The gunman, who witnesses said lost his temper “as his sandwich wasn’t prepared quickly enough” for his liking, fled the scene.

Police have opened a murder investigation.

Seven killed in Indonesia ferry accident

Kendari, Indonesia

Seven people, including two children, were killed and four others missing after a ferry carrying dozens of passengers caught fire off Indonesia’s Sulawesi island early Saturday, police said.

The ferry, heading from Southeast Sulawesi to an island in Central Sulawesi, caught fire shortly after midnight.

Police suspect the fire was triggered when the diesel tank exploded.

It was unclear how many people were aboard the vessel.

The passenger manifest listed 50 but rescuers and locals recovered 61 survivors while seven people, including two



An Indonesian policeman inspecting the charred remains of a ferry that caught fire near Kendari, off Indonesia's Sulawesi island

children aged two and four, were found dead. A search has been launched for four passengers reported missing.

Sudan transition deal signed

● Transition administration will be guided by an 11-member sovereign council, comprised of six civilians and five military figures

● Talks were mediated by the African Union and Ethiopia

Khartoum, Sudan

Sudan’s military council and protest leaders yesterday signed a hard-won “constitutional declaration” that paves the way for a transition to civilian rule.

The agreement 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, a reporter said.

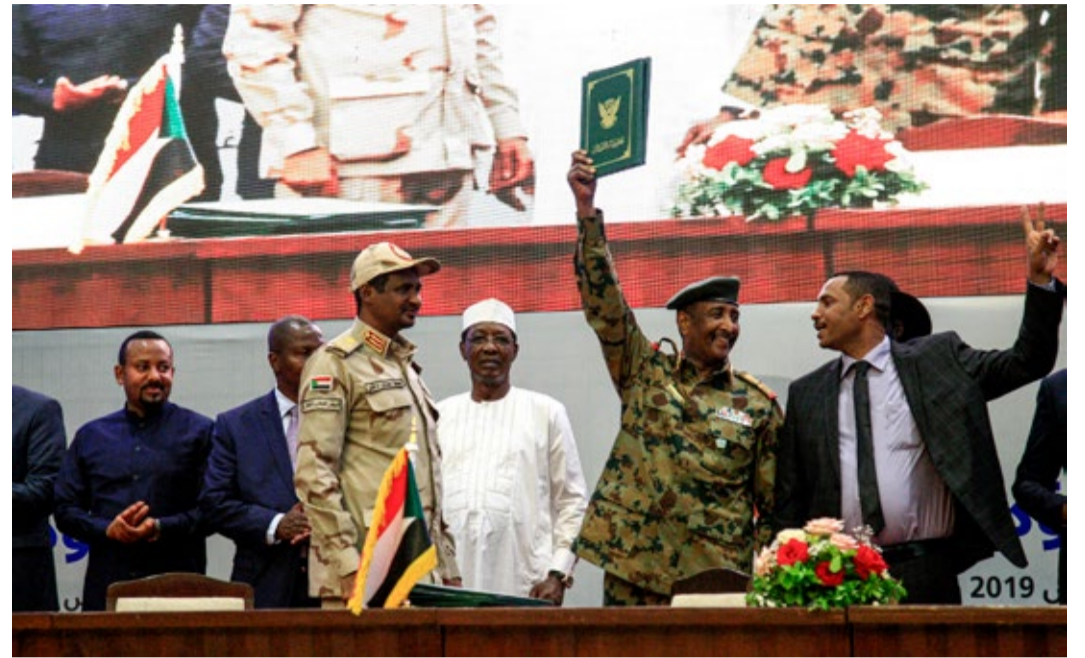
Heads of state, prime ministers and dignitaries from several countries -- including Ethiopia’s Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Egypt’s premier Mustafa Madbuli -- attended the ceremony in Khartoum, and the signing was met with applause.

The constitutional declaration builds on a political declaration that was agreed by the military and protesters on July 17.

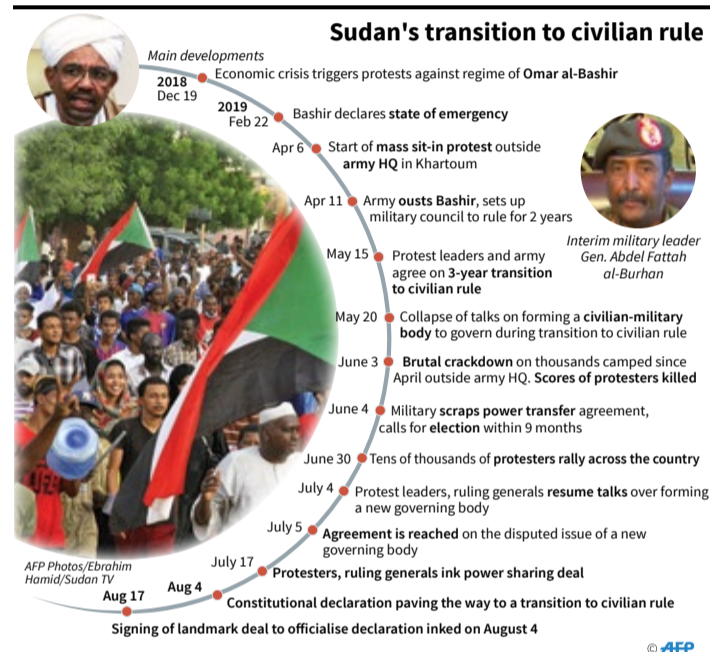
It formalises the creation of a transition administration that will be guided by an 11-member sovereign council, comprised of six civilians and five military figures.

The agreement follows nearly eight months of protests -- initially against longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir, who fell in April, and then against the military council that deposed him.

Talks between the protesters and the military were mediated by the African Union and



Sudan’s protest leader Ahmad Rabie (R), flashes the victory gesture alongside General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan (2nd-R), the chief of Sudan’s ruling Transitional Military Council (TMC), during a ceremony where they signed a “constitutional declaration” that paves the way for a transition to civilian rule, in the capital Khartoum



banners.

'Starting to breathe'

The transition is meant to guarantee more rights and freedom and is due to culminate in elections in late 2022.

While the atmosphere was overwhelmingly celebratory in Khartoum, many residents remained cautious.

People said they expect a quick and significant improvement in their economic circumstances.

At Khartoum’s central market early Saturday, shoppers and stallholders all said they hoped a civilian government 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.

“We were under the control of the military for 30 years but today we are leaving this behind us and moving towards civilian rule,” he said, sitting next to tomatoes piled directly on the ground.

Ethiopia, which brought the two sides together again even after a protest sit-in outside military headquarters was brutally dispersed by men in military fatigues on June 3.

Some 120 people were killed during that crackdown, accord-

ing to doctors linked to the protesters.

The signing ceremony started with Sudan’s national anthem, followed by a reading of verses from the Koran and the Old Testament, while the words “Sudan’s joy” were emblazoned on

Beloved baby dugong 'Mariam' dies with plastic in stomach

● Mariam washed up in shallow waters off southwestern Thailand months ago

● Several pieces of plastic were found in her intestine, with one measuring up to 20 centimetres

Bangkok, Thailand

A sick baby dugong whose fight for recovery won hearts in Thailand and cast a spotlight on ocean conservation has died from an infection exacerbated by bits of plastic lining her stomach, officials said yesterday.

Mariam washed up in shallow waters off southwestern Thailand months ago and photos of her nuzzling playfully next to rescuers quickly went viral.

The discovery soon after of another orphaned dugong brought the sea cows celebrity status, the attention of a Thai princess



Mariam the dugong as she is cared for by park officials and veterinarians from the Phuket Marine Biological Centre on Libong island, Trang province in southern Thailand

-- who named the second one “Jamil” -- and round-the-clock webcasts giving viewers a front-row seat to feedings and treatment.

But Mariam died just after midnight after going into shock

and efforts to resuscitate her failed, Chaiyapruk Werawong, head of Trang province marine park, said.

“She died from a blood infection and pus in her stomach,” he said, adding they found small

amounts of plastic waste in her intestinal tract.

Footage released by the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) showed vets attempting to revive Mariam using CPR.

“She taught us how to love and then went away as if saying please tell everyone to look after us and conserve her species”

NANTARIKA CHANSUE
VETERINARIAN

NANTARIKA CHANSUE
VETERINARIAN

Several pieces of plastic were found in her intestine, with one measuring up to 20 centimetres (eight inches).

The plastic had caused obstructions in the animal’s stomach, leading to inflammation and gas build-up, veterinarian Nantarika Chansue posted on Facebook.

“We could partially treat the respiratory infection but the obstruction of plastic rubbish... could not be cured,” she said in the post, calling for the young animal’s death to serve as a les-

son.

“She taught us how to love and then went away as if saying please tell everyone to look after us and conserve her species.”

The dugongs are the latest marine creatures to make headlines in Thailand, whose plastic-choked waters are also a threat to habitats.

Both the animals were found in southern Thailand, home to about 250 of the sea cows, which are closely related to the manatee and classified as vulnerable.

Jamil, whose name translates to “handsome sea prince”, is being cared for separately in Phuket.

Mariam’s death was also announced on the Facebook page of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources.

The post quickly garnered more than 11,000 shares and thousands of comments mourning the loss, while a meme with a picture of Mariam and “RIP” circulated online.

“It’s a pity for those who fed her milk and collected sea grass for their little daughter that we have to lose Mariam because of plastic waste,” one commenter said.