

Lebanon PM designate bows out after failing to form cabinet

Mustapha Adib says he wants to recuse himself from task of forming government

● Moustapha Adib has been in the position for nearly a month

Reuters | Beirut

Lebanon's premier-designate stepped down yesterday, saying he had been unable to form a reform-minded government to lift the country out of its worst economic crisis in decades.

Lebanon's last government resigned in the aftermath of a colossal blast at Beirut's port on August 4 that killed more than 190 people, wounded thousands and ravaged swathes of the capital.

Since his nomination on August 31, Mustapha Adib has been under pressure to form a new cabinet as soon as possible to carry out the necessary reforms to unlock billions of dollars in foreign aid.

"I excuse myself from continuing the task of forming the government," Adib said in a televised speech.

"I apologise to the Lebanese



Mustapha Adib during a speech

people... for my inability to realise its aspirations for a reformist team," he said.

Government formation can drag on for months in multi-confessional Lebanon, where a power-sharing agreement seeks to maintain a fragile balance between all sides.

This effectively means that all main political parties must agree on major decisions, including the makeup of any future cabinet even before it is submitted for parliamentary approval.

Adib's efforts to come up with

a new line-up have been effectively blocked by the two main parties representing Lebanon's large Shiite community -- Amal and Hezbollah.

The two parties have refused to budge on their demand to keep the finance ministry under their control.

'Bound to fail'

Adib, a little-known 48-year-old former ambassador, was named just hours before French President Emmanuel Macron made his second visit to the country since the August 4 blast,

The formation of a new government was hit by a logjam over the demand of two dominant Shia parties to name Shia ministers in the cabinet

pressing for the speedy formation of a reformist government.

Macron said he had secured commitments from all of Lebanon's political parties to help Adib achieve that within a fortnight, but the deadline came and went.

The premier-designate said it had become clear he no longer had support from all political forces.

"As the efforts to form a government reached their final phase, it became apparent to me that this consensus... was no longer there and that forming one according to the criteria I had determined was bound to fail," he said.



News in brief

Bolsonaro recovering well after bladder stone surgery

◆ Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro has a "great" clinical outlook after



scheduled surgery on Friday morning to remove a bladder stone, according to a statement issued by his press office and signed by a three-doctor medical team. In the statement, doctors said that there was no fever or bleeding. The president was eating and walking in his room, it said.

◆ Anti-lockdown protesters and police clashed in central London as officers moved in to disperse the thousands who had gathered for a demonstration. More than 10,000 took part in the "we do not consent" rally in Trafalgar Square against the government's measures to combat coronavirus, waving signs and placards. Footage posted on Twitter showed minor skirmishes as police moved in, with some protesters struck with batons.

Thousands attend London anti-lockdown rally



Nigeria convoy attack death toll rises to 30

◆ The death toll from a jihadist attack on the convoy of the regional governor in northeast

Nigeria has risen to 30, security sources said yesterday. Two sources said fatalities from the attack Friday in restive Borno state had doubled as more bodies were found and now included 12 policemen, five soldiers, four members of a government-backed militia and nine civilians.

◆ More than 90 people were detained at opposition rallies in Belarus as women demonstrators took to the streets to protest against strongman Alexander Lukashenko's regime. Hundreds of people took part in protest rallies in Minsk, with some women carrying portraits of Lukashenko's rival Svetlana Tikhanovskaya and others chanting "Sveta the president", referring to the 38-year-old opposition figure.

Belarus police detain dozens at women's rallies



Canadian police arrest man over 'hoax' Islamic State activity

◆ Canadian police have arrested a man on suspicion of lying about having joined Islamic

State and committed execution-style killings, charging him with "hoax-terrorist activity", authorities said. Starting in 2016, Shehroze Chaudhry, made social media posts talking about his role with Islamic State and also gave several media interviews but a Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigation found the 25-year-old had no links to the group.

◆ An armed militia killed at least 15 people in a pre-dawn attack on Friday in western

Armed militia kills at least 15 people in western Ethiopia

Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) said in a statement, the latest security challenge for Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government. The attack follows another similar incident earlier this month that took place in the same Metakal zone of Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz region, which borders Sudan, where 30 people were killed.

Paris cleaver attack suspect says wanted to target Charlie Hebdo

AFP | Paris

A Pakistan-born teenager has admitted to stabbing two people with a meat cleaver outside the former Paris offices of Charlie Hebdo magazine, investigators said yesterday, with nine people now detained over what the government con-



Emergency services at the crime scene

demned as "Islamist terror".

The 18-year-old said he wanted to avenge the republication of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed by the satirical weekly, which in January 2015 was targeted in a massacre carried out by Islamist gunmen.

The attack on Friday came three weeks into a trial in Paris

of suspected accomplices in the January 2015 attacks on Charlie Hebdo, a policewoman and a Jewish supermarket that left 17 people dead.

While the man is believed to have carried out the stabbings alone, eight other people are now also under arrest following two more detentions yesterday.

Star & Disney India's K Madhavan appointed as IBF president



K Madhavan
Agencies | New Delhi

IBF (Indian Broadcasting Foundation) has named Disney and Star India MD K Madhavan as the new president, at the 21st annual general meeting.

Madhavan takes over from Sony Pictures Networks (SPN) MD and CEO N P Singh who completed his tenure in the position for two years, the maximum duration a president can hold office.

Madhavan has been an active member of IBF since 2012 and is also the chair of CII's National Committee on media and entertainment (M&E) for the ongoing year. He started his journey with Star in 2009 and took over as the managing director of the network in January 2020

Modi makes strong pitch for India's inclusion in UNSC

ANI | New Delhi

Making a strong pitch for India's inclusion as a permanent member of United Nations Security Council, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said "reform in the responses, in the processes, and in the very character of the United Nations is the need of the hour" and wondered as to how long India with its unique contribution to the UN will be "kept out of the decision-making structures" of the world body.

Addressing the 75th United Nations General Assembly in Hindi through video-con-



Narendra Modi

ferencing, the Prime Minister said that the international community is faced with a very important question about the relevance of United Nations as the "requirements and challenges" of the present as well as the future are vastly different from those when the world body was constituted in 1945.

Barring China, all other four permanent members of the UNSC have expressed support for India's candidature for a permanent seat in the security council.

Modi said that every Indian, while seeing the contribution of India in the United Nations, aspires for India's expanded role in the body. He also referred to India's contributions to about 50 UN peace missions over the decades.

” Reform in the responses, in the processes, and in the very character of the United Nations is the need of the hour. For how long will India be kept out of the decision-making structures of the United Nations?

NARENDRA MODI

Global

Covid-19 Cases:

32,979,612

Deaths

996,565

Recovered:

24,335,123

New cases

+227,366

New deaths

+3,586

Middle East

Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	New cases	Total Deaths	New deaths
1 USA	7,274,891	+30,707	208,921	+481
2 India	5,990,513	+88,942	94,533	+1,123
3 Brazil	4,694,648	+2,069	140,783	+74
4 Russia	1,143,571	+7,523	20,225	+169
5 Colombia	798,317		25,103	
6 Peru	794,584		32,037	
7 Spain	735,198		31,232	+266
8 Mexico	720,858	+5,401	75,844	+405
9 Argentina	691,235		15,208	
10 South Africa	668,529		16,312	
11 France	527,446	+14,412	31,700	+39
12 Chile	455,979	+2,111	12,591	+64
13 Iran	443,086	+3,204	25,394	+172
14 UK	429,277	+6,042	41,971	+34

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases	Serious, Critical	Tot cases/1m pop
Egypt	102,625		5,853		93,531	3,241	41	998
Saudi Arabia	332,790	+461	4,655	+30	316,405	11,730	1,035	9,525
UAE	90,618	+1,078	411	+2	79,676	10,531		9,136
Kuwait	103,199	+758	597	+2	94,211	8,391	108	24,082
Oman	83,418	+192	597	+9	77,977	4,844	154	16,285
Qatar	124,850	+200	214	+2	121,738	2,898	58	44,465