

Iraq protests threaten to upend government

Iraq's government is scrambling to contain a wave of unrest that has rocked Baghdad and a number of southern cities, as protesters demand jobs, better services and an end to corruption in the oil-rich country

TIMELINE OF UNREST

■ **Oct 1:** Spontaneous protests erupt in Baghdad, later spreading to mainly Shia areas of southern Iraq. Unrest is biggest challenge to date for Prime Minister **Adel Abdul Mahdi** (right), who took office in 2018 as consensus candidate of Shia parties

■ **Oct 4:** Powerful Shia cleric **Moqtada al-Sadr** (far right) calls on government to resign and for early elections as unrest intensifies



■ **Oct 5:** Top UN official in Iraq denounces violence during protests that have killed almost 100 people

● Cities affected by protests



■ **Oct 6:** Government unveils social reforms in bid to quell unrest, including paying out unemployment benefits and providing subsidised housing and land for low-income groups. **Violence spreads to Baghdad's volatile Sadr City suburb**

■ **Oct 7:** Abdul Mahdi orders army to withdraw from Sadr City, to be replaced by police. Iraq's military admits using "excessive force" against demonstrators and says commanding officers will be held accountable

■ **Oct 8:** Death toll from week of violence stands at 110, with more than 6,000 wounded – many of them struck by bullets