

# Lebanon's spiralling political crisis



■ **Sep 29, 2019:** Hundreds of people take to streets of Beirut in protest over economic hardship and dollar shortages

■ **Oct 17:** Mass protests triggered by \$6 monthly tax on WhatsApp voice calls. Prime Minister **Saad Hariri** (inset) scraps tax, but protests against political corruption and economic ineptitude escalate

■ **Oct 29:** Hariri's government resigns

■ **Jan 2020:** New cabinet under Prime Minister **Hassan Diab** (right) appointed. Continuing protests are met with excessive force from security forces



■ **Mar 9:** Government defaults on repayment of \$1.2-billion Eurobond

■ **Mar 19:** Authorities announce lockdown in response to pandemic

■ **May 1:** Diab seeks \$10 billion aid from **International Monetary Fund**. Iran-backed Hezbollah rejects IMF plan – negotiations flounder



■ **Aug 4:** Blast at Beirut's port triggers public outrage

■ **Aug 10:** Amid growing anger, government resigns

■ **Aug 31:** **Mustapha Adib** named prime minister designate, pledges reforms

■ **Sep 26:** Adib steps down after reforms are blocked by Hezbollah

■ **Oct 22:** Hariri returns as prime minister, vows to halt collapse

■ **Feb-Jun 2021:** Price of bread and fuel rises by more than 35%. Lebanese pound plummets. Protesters try to storm central bank

■ **Jul 15:** Hariri quits

■ **Jul 26:** **Najib Mikati** (top) named premier as crisis escalates