



Current Affairs

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Nawaf Salam Appointed as Lebanon's New Prime Minister



1. Nawaf Salam Appointed Lebanon's New Prime Minister

Nawaf Salam has been appointed as Lebanon's new Prime Minister, marking a pivotal moment in the country's political landscape. A seasoned diplomat, academic, and former judge at the International Court of Justice, Salam brings a wealth of experience to the role. His appointment comes amid Lebanon's ongoing economic and political crises, raising hopes for effective governance and reform. Salam has emphasized the importance of unity, transparency, and international cooperation in addressing the nation's pressing challenges. His leadership is expected to focus on restoring stability, economic recovery, and rebuilding trust in Lebanon's institutions.



Foot notes:

- Salam, a 71-year-old jurist and diplomat, was appointed by President Joseph Aoun after securing the backing of a significant majority in parliament, with 84 out of 128 members supporting him.
- He will be tasked with forming a government and addressing the country's deepening economic crisis, which has been exacerbated by a two-year political deadlock.

- Salam's appointment is seen as a blow to Hezbollah, which had supported caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati for another term, and reflects growing domestic and international support for political reform in Lebanon.
- As a renowned diplomat and jurist, Salam brings a wealth of experience to the role, having served as Lebanon's ambassador to the UN and president of the International Court of Justice.
- His reformist credentials and international experience offer a pathway toward governance renewal, but he will face significant challenges in forming a government and addressing the country's sectarian divisions.
- Salam's ability to bridge divides between Hezbollah-aligned groups and reformist factions will be crucial in determining whether Lebanon can break free from its cycle of political paralysis and economic decline.

2. OP Singh appointed as new Chairman of Indian Police Foundation

Former IPS officer OP Singh has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Indian Police Foundation (IPF), a premier think tank focused on police reforms and public safety in India. Singh, known for his exemplary leadership during his tenure as the Director General of Uttar Pradesh Police, brings a wealth of experience to his new role. His appointment underscores the IPF's commitment to driving strategic discussions and initiatives to modernize India's policing framework. Under his leadership, the foundation aims to foster greater collaboration between law enforcement agencies, academia, and civil society. Singh's vision includes prioritizing transparency, accountability, and community engagement in policing.



Foot notes:

- He brings a wealth of experience to the position, having served as the Director General of Uttar Pradesh Police, Central Industrial Security Force, and National Disaster Response Force.
- Singh is known for his innovative approach to law enforcement and has introduced the police commissionerate system in UP, making him an ideal candidate to lead the Indian Police Foundation.
- As Chairman, he will focus on promoting professional policing, improving law and order, and enhancing the overall efficiency of the police force.

- Singh has also been recognized for his role in rescue operations during the 2015 Nepal earthquake and has received several awards, including the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and Police Medal for Gallantry.
- He is expected to leverage his expertise to drive reforms and modernization in the police force, making it more effective in addressing the complex challenges of modern policing.
- With his strong background and experience, OP Singh is poised to make a significant impact as the new Chairman of the Indian Police Foundation, and his leadership will be closely watched by the law enforcement community.

3. President Zoran Milanovic of Croatia re-elected for five year term

Zoran Milanović has been re-elected as the President of Croatia, securing a second five-year term. Known for his progressive policies and straightforward approach, Milanović's leadership has been marked by efforts to strengthen Croatia's economy and its standing in the European Union. His re-election reflects widespread public support for his vision of modernization and reforms. Milanović has pledged to prioritize economic growth, healthcare improvement, and environmental sustainability during his new term. As Croatia navigates regional and global challenges, his leadership will be pivotal in shaping the nation's future trajectory.



Foot notes:

- Milanovic's opponent, Dragan Primorac, received nearly 26% of the vote, making it a decisive victory for the incumbent president.
- The first round of the presidential election was held on December 29, 2024, where Milanovic won 49.1% of the votes, necessitating a second round on January 12, 2025.
- Milanovic's re-election is a significant development in Croatian politics, and he will continue to serve as the president for the next five years.
- The presidential election in Croatia is a notable event, and Milanovic's victory has been widely reported.
- With his re-election, Milanovic is expected to continue his policies and work towards the development of Croatia.

4. Senior IAS officer Prashant Kumar Singh will be New Chief Secretary of Manipur

Senior IAS officer Prashant Kumar Singh has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Manipur. A seasoned administrator, Singh brings extensive experience in governance and policy implementation to his new role. His appointment comes at a crucial time, with a focus on addressing developmental challenges and ensuring administrative efficiency in the state. Singh is expected to prioritize initiatives aimed at fostering socio-economic growth, enhancing infrastructure, and maintaining peace and stability. His leadership is anticipated to strengthen governance and drive inclusive progress across Manipur.



Foot notes:

- He's a senior IAS officer with a wealth of experience, having served as the Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy earlier.
- Singh belongs to the Manipur cadre, which makes him a great fit for the role.
- As the new Chief Secretary, he'll be responsible for overseeing the administration of the state and implementing key policies.
- His appointment is a significant development for Manipur, which has been dealing with its own set of challenges.
- Singh's experience in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy will likely come in handy as he navigates the complexities of state administration.
- He's expected to bring a fresh perspective and new ideas to the role, which could be just what Manipur needs to move forward.

5. India beat Nepal in Kho Kho World Cup 2025 opener

India began their campaign in the Kho Kho World Cup 2025 with a commanding victory over Nepal in the tournament opener. Demonstrating exceptional teamwork and agility, the Indian team dominated the match from the start, securing a comfortable win. Key players showcased outstanding performances, with strategic chases and defenses that left Nepal struggling to keep pace. This win sets a strong tone for India's title aspirations as they aim to defend their championship. Fans and experts praised the team's efforts, highlighting their preparation and determination to excel on the global stage.



Foot notes:

- The match was played at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, with India's men's team putting up a strong performance to take the lead.
- The Indian team, led by captain Pratik Waikar, showed great skill and strategy, outmaneuvering the Nepalese team to win by a margin of 5 points.
- This win is a great start for India in the tournament, and they will look to continue their winning streak in their next match against Brazil.
- The Kho Kho World Cup 2025 features 20 teams from around the world, competing in a round-robin stage followed by knockout matches.
- The tournament aims to promote Kho Kho as an internationally recognized sport, and India's win in the opener has set the tone for an exciting competition.
- The Indian team's victory has generated a lot of excitement among fans, and they will be looking forward to their next match to see if they can continue their winning run.

6. Nidhi Khare appointed as Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Senior IAS officer Nidhi Khare has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. She brings extensive administrative experience, having previously served in various key roles, including in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Her appointment aligns with India's commitment to advancing its renewable energy sector and achieving ambitious clean energy targets. Khare will focus on policy implementation and fostering innovation to support India's transition to sustainable energy solutions. Her leadership is expected to play a pivotal role in driving green energy initiatives and strengthening India's position in global renewable energy efforts.



Foot notes:

- She's a 1992 batch IAS officer from Jharkhand, bringing a wealth of experience to her new assignment.
- This move is likely to strengthen the ministry's efforts in promoting renewable energy and reducing the country's dependence on fossil fuels.
- As Secretary, Khare will oversee the implementation of policies and programs aimed at increasing the use of solar, wind, and other forms of renewable energy.
- Her appointment is seen as a significant development in the government's push for sustainable energy and reducing carbon emissions.

- Khare will hold the additional charge until a regular incumbent is appointed, and her leadership is expected to make a positive impact on the ministry's initiatives.

7. David Kim has been appointed as the head of Korea business

David Kim has been appointed as the Head of Korea Business, bringing a wealth of experience in strategic leadership and market expansion. Known for his expertise in driving growth in competitive markets, he is expected to play a crucial role in enhancing the company's presence in South Korea. His appointment reflects the organization's focus on leveraging local insights to achieve sustainable success in the region. Kim will oversee key operations, partnerships, and business development initiatives in Korea. This leadership change aims to further strengthen the company's position in one of Asia's most dynamic economies.



Foot notes:

- He brings over 25 years of experience in the insurance industry, having held leadership roles such as CEO of Marsh Korea and founder of Johnson and Higgins Korea.
- Kim's team at Miller Korea includes Andrew Kim, Youngkum Yoon, and Tae Hoon Kim, all of whom have extensive experience in the Korean insurance market.
- The launch of Miller Korea is part of the firm's expansion into Asia, with the goal of delivering specialized solutions for the local market.
- Kim is excited to build a strong team and work with clients to address their unique needs, and he sees a significant opportunity for Miller to grow in the Korean market.
- Miller's growth in Asia is a key part of the firm's international growth objectives, and the establishment of Miller Korea is a major step forward in this effort.
- The firm's leadership is confident that Kim's experience and relationships will help drive the adoption of Miller's technology and accelerate business in the region.

8. Sao Tome and Principe PM Resigns

The Prime Minister of São Tomé and Príncipe has resigned, creating a significant shift in the nation's political landscape. The resignation comes amid ongoing political and economic challenges facing the country. This decision has sparked discussions on the

stability and future direction of the island nation. The President is now expected to consult with political stakeholders to appoint a new Prime Minister. The transition will be closely monitored as São Tomé and Príncipe navigates this period of change.



Foot notes:

- She was appointed as the new Prime Minister just a few days ago, following the president's decision to dissolve the previous government.
- Amado Vaz submitted her resignation to the president, stating that her continued leadership would not contribute to the success of public policies and the harmonious development of Sao Tome and Principe.
- The president has since appointed a new Prime Minister, Americo D'Oliveira dos Ramos, who previously served as the governor of the country's central bank.
- The resignation comes amid a period of political turmoil in Sao Tome and Principe, with the previous government being dissolved and the president facing opposition from various factions.
- Amado Vaz's resignation is seen as a significant development in the country's politics, and it remains to be seen how the new Prime Minister will navigate the complex landscape.

9. PUMA became 'PVMA' to onboard PV Sindhu as brand ambassador

PUMA, the global sportswear brand, has creatively rebranded itself as 'PVMA' to celebrate the onboarding of badminton champion PV Sindhu as its brand ambassador. This unique initiative highlights the brand's commitment to honoring Sindhu's exceptional achievements in the world of sports. By associating with one of India's most celebrated athletes, PUMA reinforces its dedication to promoting excellence and inspiring the youth. PV Sindhu will represent the brand in campaigns and initiatives that align with PUMA's ethos of performance and innovation. This partnership is expected to further elevate PUMA's presence in the Indian market and beyond.



Foot notes:

- PUMA swapped its iconic name to 'PVMA' across multiple billboards and store signage, sparking curiosity and conversations nationwide.

- The campaign was a clever play on the brand's name, combining it with the initials of the celebrated Indian badminton star, PV Sindhu.
- The 'PVMA' logo was used to unveil Sindhu as PUMA's new brand ambassador, and she will be promoting the brand during the India Open 2025 by wearing their sportswear products.
- This is the first time PUMA has brought a badminton sporting star on board, and Sindhu's association is expected to inspire a new generation of sports enthusiasts.
- The partnership will debut at the India Open 2025, where PUMA will launch a new badminton range featuring footwear, apparel, and accessories.
- The 'PVMA' campaign is a testament to how outdoor advertising, when paired with creativity and cultural relevance, can drive conversations and make a lasting impact.

10. C-DOT and IIT Mandi signs agreement for Developing Semiconductor Chip

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi have signed an agreement to collaborate on developing advanced semiconductor chips. This partnership aims to enhance India's capabilities in semiconductor design and innovation, aligning with the country's vision for self-reliance in technology. The collaboration will leverage IIT Mandi's expertise in research and C-DOT's experience in telecommunications to create cutting-edge semiconductor solutions. This initiative is expected to boost India's semiconductor ecosystem and reduce dependency on imports. The project underscores the growing emphasis on fostering academic-industry partnerships to drive technological progress.



Foot notes:

- The project aims to design a reliable and implementation-friendly wideband spectrum sensing algorithm to improve spectrum efficiency by leveraging spectrum holes to deliver broadband services in rural India.
- The agreement is signed under the Telecom Technology Development Fund scheme of the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, which aims to fund Indian startups, academia, and R&D institutions.
- The initiative will provide a hardware solution capable of scanning over 2 GHz of spectrum with minimal sensing time, thereby boosting the throughput of cognitive radio networks.

- The project will also lead to the creation of intellectual properties for the wideband spectrum sensing technology, which is the key component for dynamic spectrum access.
- IIT Jammu is also collaborating with C-DOT and IIT Mandi on this project, which will focus on designing communication algorithms that are hardware-friendly for sensing the wideband spectrum.
- The ultimate goal is to develop an application-specific integrated-circuits semiconductor chip that will achieve better spectrum efficiency and demonstrate a wideband cognitive radio module targeting the 6 GHz satellite band.

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