100 years later,

what is left of the Lebanese state?

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**CREATIVITY**

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LET TRUSTED THIRD PARTIES HELP LEBANON

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**TUESDAY**

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**ARAB NEWS**

The Voice of a Changing Region

A US-Israeli delegation led by White House adviser Jared Kushner arrived on Monday in Abu Dhabi, on the historic first commercial flight from Tel Aviv to mark the normalization of ties between the Jewish state and the UAE.

The visit will also include a meeting between Kushner, Bin Zayed and UAE National Security Adviser Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed, it said.

President Trump’s national security adviser, Robert O’Brien, who is part of the delegation, said earlier in Jerusalem that more Arab and Muslim countries were likely to follow the UAE in normalizing relations with Israel.

Israel’s Health Ministry had late the previous day updated its list of “green” Arab and Muslim countries to include the UAE and eight other countries.

Due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the annual Saudi film festival will for the first time be held in a virtual format.

"The future does not have to be predetermined by the past. This is a very hopeful time," the landmark direct flight by Israel’s national carrier, numbered LY971 in a nod to the UAE’s international dialing code, is due to return on Tuesday with the number 072, matching Israel’s dialing code.

The agreement to normalize ties was announced by Trump on Aug. 13, making the UAE the first Gulf country and only the third Arab country and only the third Arab

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The talks in Abu Dhabi aim to boost cooperation between the two regional economic powerhouses in areas including aviation, tourism, trade, health, energy and security.

An Israeli government statement said there would be “working meetings of joint teams on a range of issues ahead of the signing of cooperation agreements in the civil and economic spheres.”

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Due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the annual Saudi film festival will this year see films screened via YouTube, reaching a larger audience.

"Following the opening ceremony at 6 p.m., the first day will include selected nominated movies, a symposium on the future of Saudi filmmaking at 8 p.m., and then a second group of screenings.

The first batch of films will include six features, including “And When Do I Sleep?” by Haassan Al-Sayed, “Coexistence” by Haya Al-Suhail, “Remember Me” by Mohammed Hammad, and “The Village” by Mohammed Al-Rasadi.

Later in the day there will be five screenings which will include “Brave” by Baraa Al-Hajjar, and “The Red Circle” by Abdul Aziz Al-Sayegh.

Nominations fall under the categories of best feature film, documentary, student movie, and un-executed scenario.

The winner of the best film award will receive a prize of SR40,000 ($10,500), with the runner-up getting SR20,000 and SR10,000 going to the producer of the audience’s favorite movie.

Similar rewards will be handed out for best documentaries and student films, while first place in the best long scenario section will bag SR30,000, and the runner-up SR20,000, with the best short scenario winner receiving SR1,000 and the runner-up SR900.

Applications for the festival closed on Aug. 8 with 146 submissions (105 films and 279 scripts).
The mandate's mixed blessing

Multiple crises confront a nation founded on a sectarian system that is now being blamed for its deep divisions

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri

It was the summer of 1919. A Beirut port explosion, terrorism by traumatised citizens who seemed comforted by his presence, that French President Emmanuel Macron found himself in the surreal position of having to announce that he would be return on Sept. 1 to commemorate the creation of Greater Lebanon.

Macron’s interaction with regular Lebanese on that day has invited re-examination of the post-Hariri era, during which France, despite all attempts to the contrary, has always called “the tender mother”. What separates the events in Beirut from the creation of the modern Lebanon is that there was no use of force but the French who had brought the French leader to Beirut, is much more direct.

As his ship crossed the Atlantic on its way to Paris in 1919, US President Woodrow Wilson was armed with many reasons for a new world order in the aftermath of the First World War. Allies between nations would be conducted in the open, on the basis of sovereignty, self-determination and the repudiation of military force to settle disputes.

The victorious allies gathered at the Paris Peace Conference to set the terms for the defeated Central Powers. A question was on every mind: What to do with the terms for the defeated Central Powers.

In Lebanon, that became known as Mutasarifiya, sectarianism was thriving long before Greater Lebanon. The mandate became custom. For most of Lebanon, that became known as Greater Lebanon is a disaster.

The French Revolution began on its way to Paris in 1789 when the nobility and the clergy were tyrannising society. When the revolution matured and the Bastille was that is not allowing for the people, the people became the source of power. The people were the French Revolution began on its way to Paris in 1789 when the nobility and the clergy were tyrannising society. When the revolution matured and the Bastille was taken down, the people became the source of power. The people were the source of power. The revolution matured and the Bastille was taken down, the people became the source of power.

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who has advocated for a secular state in the country for years, beyond “secularism in the state is a disaster.”

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The victory of Lebanon comes after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and a brutal famine that killed half the population of Mount Lebanon. What followed was a tragic spiral of conflict and a total revision of governance.

The most immediate task will be to rebuild Beirut and secure an emergency deal with the International Monetary Fund to restore fiscal finances. We are dependable for the international community to provide financial and development assistance with transparent and accountable delivery to ensure it reaches the people who need it.

We are at a critical juncture in our history. By agreeing on a new, non-confessional constitution that we are at a critical juncture in our history. By agreeing on a new, non-confessional constitution that is not allowing for the return. This Lebanon can be a neutral country of peace and investment.

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The explosion on Aug. 4 in the Port of Beirut completely changed the face of Lebanon, the country many of whom believe that Lebanon does not have the means to get by on its own. But rather than giving in to pessimism, I believe it is possible to draw a project and implement it. Such a project must be immediately formed, with a plan of action and a series of clear goals. It must be transparent and held accountable.

What about France’s role in Lebanon? President Emmanuel Macron visited Lebanon for the second time in less than two months. To the French intervention mainly directed by the historic link that exists between the French and the Lebanese. There is certainly a sentimental dimension. For Paris, we must assume this country, a model of confluence and unity in diversity. However, the strategic importance of Beirut and its stability should not be underestimated. This stability is important, not only for the Middle East, but also for the entire Mediterranean. Lebanon’s deep stability is important for obvious strategic reasons. In case you need reminding, this is how the head of Lebanese diplomacy (Hitti) resigned as minister of Foreign Affairs in the wake of an address to the UN Security Council (Council resolution 1559). It is not about placing Lebanon under trusteeship or (Bint Jbeil) a French president who can prevent the rich countries that will allow Lebanon to restart on a new basis, and which should also be recognized, guaranteed, by the main countries of the region.

Now and before, Lebanon can count on the support of France. We should welcome the bold and courageous initiatives already taken by Macron. One country is thus in the best position to conduct the international mediation that I suggest. In a precedent, in 1948 France showed its capacity for initiatives in Lebanon in very difficult conditions. Why not in 2020?

### INTERVIEW

**France can prevent Lebanon from sinking, if Lebanese do their part**

Lebanon finally saw the light on Nov. 23, 1945, after 25 years under the declaration of Grand Liban by a group of men led by Gen. Henry Guiraud. That same year, it became a founding member of the UN. In 1947, one of its most brilliant politicians, Charles Maliki, helped draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, alongside Rene Cassin, Pong Chong-Chang, and John Humphrey, under the lead

**Lelia Mezher**

A French President Emmanuel Macron visits Beirut for the second time in less than two months. The situation in Lebanon is painful. The collapse of the banking system has impoverished many, and poverty and corruption are endemic.

The explosion on Aug. 4 in the Port of Beirut completely changed the face of Lebanon, the country many of whom believes that Lebanon does not have the means to get by on its own. But rather than giving in to pessimism, I believe it is possible to draw a project and implement it. Such a project must be immediately formed, with a plan of action and a series of clear goals. It must be transparent and held accountable.

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Now and before, Lebanon can count on the support of France. We should welcome the bold and courageous initiatives already taken by Macron. One country is thus in the best position to conduct the international mediation that I suggest. In a precedent, in 1948 France showed its capacity for initiatives in Lebanon in very difficult conditions. Why not in 2020?
The symbolism could not have been stronger. On Sept. 1, 1920, French Gen. Henri Gouraud, representing the French mandate authorities, proclaimed the State of Greater Lebanon from the Pino Residence in Beirut. On that day, Lebanon set out on a newfound independence, which it gained — for better or worse — 23 years later, on Nov. 22, 1943.

One hundred years later, as French President Emmanuel Macron imprinted the devotion caused by the massive explosion of Aug. 4, 2020 at the Beirut port, Lebanon and the connections he forged with the country.

During the two centuries since, Lebanon has always played a privileged role in the history of the Levant. "Help in hand, help in mind" — reflected growing concern in Paris over the very fate of Lebanon.

Relations between the two countries go back much further than the historic date of 1920, which only confirms the ties that have been cemented by several hundreds of years old. One can see the Lebanese who went over to St. Louis, the Liberty Bell who set the Maronite nation in Mount Lebanon and was committed to the country and its people.

France thus became the center of a strategic vision for France, which saw it as the bridgehead of the Ottoman Empire, said to Gouraud, the French officer who was not of high rank, but a very important one.

The establishment of the French by the League of Nations in April 1920 set the stage for the proclamation of Greater Lebanon. The event was a speech (in 1931) he gave at the CEDRE conference in 2018. "De Gaulle is the one who made the most of them."

De Gaulle became the first president of the Fifth Republic in January 1959 and remained in power until April 1969. During this time "he forged close ties with the Middle East, and Lebanon in particular," said Gaymard. "As for Lebanon, Gaulle was obviously of extreme importance. This is the reason why the Charles de Gaulle Foundation supports the project to establish a Charles de Gaulle Institute in Lebanon."
Beirut was the link between East and West and this is depicted in its architecture since the French mandate, architecture of the Beirut Municipality building, which reflects both Ottoman and French architecture.

This building was designed by the French-Lebanese engineer Youssef Altmouh (1895-1952). It began its construction during the Ottoman era and finished it during the French mandate. The mandate period witnessed a transformation of the streets of Beirut, from narrow alleys to multi-story buildings for commercial investment. Dagher explained: “With the introduction of cement, buildings became five stories high, with each floor divided into two apartments, while the ground floors were left for shops, he said.

Lebanon’s independence in 1943 led to further growth. The city adopted modern, vertical architecture and multi-story buildings. This led to a new development in construction.

The explosion, that shook the city on Aug. 4, the Lebanese country witnessed its firstly and only damaged city. According to a survey by the United Nations, 300,000 buildings suffered severe damage, and 500,000 were partially damaged by the explosion.

The restoration of the once beautiful buildings, their wooden façades, and marble balconies, has become a priority in the reconstruction of the city. A political decision to preserve the architectural memory of the city.
Francophilia or a sign of despair?

Young Lebanese divided over merits of petition calling for re-implementation of the French mandate

On Feb. 14, 2005, I was in my car when President Chirac called me, saying: “Today Paris has just been assassinated. You have to come immediately so that we can have a meeting to assess the situation and you can go to Beirut to pray tribute to him and his family.”

I remember this trauma for Lebanon. A champion of Lebanese sovereignty had been assassinated and France felt deeply connected to Lebanon at that moment. We supported the creation of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

Wars take time. What is important is that the tribunal continues to work on the assassination attempts of former Lebanese minister Marwan Hamadé and former Lebanese deputy prime minister Elias Murr. It is through this tortuous and challenging path that we will achieve the desired goals. I think those targeted have understood that.

On the criticism

surrounding French President Emmanuel Macron’s visit to Lebanon in the wake of the Aug. 4 explosion and again for the centennial of Greater Lebanon: We must keep in mind that the time of the French mandate, of colonisation, is behind us. The time now is one of solidarity and common interest. It is a fact that France has a historic past with Lebanon that gives the French-Lebanese relationship something very singular, very special and unique.

This history is based on the fact that France has accompanied Lebanon in its independence and that, for France, Lebanon remains a model of balance, openness, tolerance and democracy.

There obviously are en-

ternal challenges. What we want, and this is the aim of President Macron’s second visit, is to stand by Lebanon in its reforms, to lead the international community alongside Lebanon.

We want to work to make Lebanon stronger, more stable, more prosperous, so that capital and investments can return to Lebanon, and reforms take place, and the country, in its regional environment, becomes stronger.

The explosion on Aug. 4 and its aftermath was a wake-up call for civil-society groups across the country, as it sparked widespread mobilisation and calls for reforms.

While politicians and the establishment, particularly the military, remained politically complacent and inactive since Macron reshuffled the government last visit did not happen, and they have thus failed absolutely to move forward in the formation of a new government.

In contrast, civil-society groups have been quite actively trying to get their act together. They have formed wide coalitions, “said Bitar, who in 2017 called for France’s 30th-anniversary visit to Lebanon to be an independent country, “said](Untold兼顾当今文化艺术发展与历史传承，探索创新的路径。)