

Lebanon's presidential timebomb

With pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud's term due to expire on Nov 23, the 60-day countdown to naming a successor begins when Parliament reconvenes. A series of assassinations has whittled away the ruling coalition's majority, with two-thirds required to appoint their man

Mainly Sunni Muslim party Druze Christian Shia

GOVERNMENT COALITION: 68 seats

PRO-SYRIAN OPPOSITION: 59



Future Movement, 36: Supports Prime Minister **Fouad Siniora**. Wants to replace Lahoud with anti-Syrian candidate. Will assume executive powers if no candidate found

Tripoli bloc 3



Democratic Gathering, 15: Led by Druze chief **Walid Jumblatt**



Lebanese Forces, 6: Led by former warlord **Samir Geagea**
Gornet Shehwan 6
Democratic Left, 2
Dem. Renewal 2

Amal, 15: Led by Speaker **Nabih Berri**. Calling for consensus candidate – giving opposition greater leverage to win veto power in Cabinet



Hezbollah, 14: Led by fiery cleric **Hassan Nasrallah**



Baath Party 1
Syrian National Party 2

Others 5
Change and Reform Movement, 22: Former President **Michel Aoun** vying for second term



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: Requires two-thirds of vote in Parliament.

However, opposition insists at least two thirds of total MPs are required to vote while ruling coalition says only a simple majority must attend session