

Lebanon's presidential timebomb

With pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud's term due to expire Nov 23, the 60-day countdown to appointing a successor begins when Parliament reconvenes Tuesday. Failure to find a suitable candidate could lead to a power vacuum, with Lahoud threatening to appoint a rival government

Mainly Sunni Muslim party Druze Christian Shia

GOVERNMENT COALITION 68 seats

PRO-SYRIAN OPPOSITION 60 seats



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

Tripoli bloc 5



Progressive Socialists 16
Led by Druze chief **Walid Jumblatt**



Kataeb 5: Three MPs assassinated since last election
Lebanese Forces 6
Led by former warlord **Samir Geagea**

Amal 14: Led by Speaker **Nabih Berri**. Has called for consensus candidate – giving opposition more leverage to win veto power in Cabinet



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



Syrian National Party, Baath Party 7

Others 3
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