

# Michel Suleiman



Rival Lebanese leaders have agreed a deal which paves the way to elect army chief General Michel Suleiman as president

■ **Born:** Nov 1, 1948, in Amchit, to Maronite Catholic family

■ **1998:** Syrian-sponsored appointment as Army Commander

■ **2005:** Refused to use military to end street demonstrations of **Cedar Revolution** following assassination of former Prime Minister **Rafik Hariri**, forcing Syria to withdraw its troops

■ **2006:** Distanced Army from **Hezbollah** during 34-day war with Israel – subsequently deployed military to re-establish Lebanese sovereignty in south of country

■ **Jan 2007:** Imposed curfew to quell Sunni-Shiite clashes in Beirut

■ **Jun-Sep:** Won widespread praise for tackling and eventually defeating **Fatah al-Islam** militants in siege of Nahr al-Bared refugee camp

■ **Dec:** Lebanese factions agree on electing Suleiman to succeed President **Emile Lahoud**, but political deadlock delays vote