

# Lebanon election rivals

The stage is set for a showdown between two blocs; the "March 14" alliance, made up mainly of Sunnis and backed by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, and the "March 8" coalition, which is dominated by Shias and supported by Iran and Syria

## MARCH 14 ALLIANCE

## MARCH 8 ALLIANCE

■ **FUTURE MOVEMENT:** Led by billionaire businessman **Saad Hariri** (above), son of assassinated Prime Minister **Rafik al-Hariri** and country's most influential Sunni Muslim politician

■ **HEZBOLLAH:** Led by Sheikh **Hassan Nasrallah** (above), chief of formidable guerrilla force and Shia community's dominant political bloc

■ **AMAL MOVEMENT:** Led by **Nabih Berri**, since 1992 speaker of parliament, top Shia position under country's sectarian power-sharing system. Among Syria's closest allies

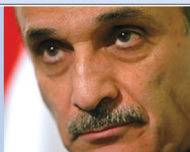
■ **PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PARTY:** Led by influential Druze leader, **Walid Jumblatt**.

Former ally of Damascus, he switched to anti-



Syrian camp after death of strongman **Hafez al-Assad** in 2000

■ **LEBANESE FORCES:** Led by Maronite Christian **Samir Geagea**, released from jail in 2005 after serving 11 years for political killings committed during 1975-90 civil war



■ **PHALANGE PARTY:** Led by **Amin Gemayel**, wartime president from 1982-88. He took office after assassination of brother and president-elect **Bashir** – leader of right-wing pro-Israeli Christian Phalange movement



■ **FREE PATRIOTIC MOVEMENT:** Led by former army chief and prominent Maronite Christian leader **Michel Aoun**. Leader of 1989 rebellion against Syria, Aoun moved into pro-Syrian block after 2005 withdrawal of Syrian troops



■ **MARADA MOVEMENT:** Led by **Suleiman Franjieh**, former interior minister, and close personal friend of Syrian President **Bashar al-Assad**



*Independent candidates include Sunni billionaire businessman and former prime minister **Najib Mikati**, and Greek Orthodox politician and former deputy prime minister **Michel Al-Murr***