Israeli Prime Minister calls early election

Benjamin Netanyahu will go the polls nine months early after he was unable to agree the 2013 budget with his coalition partners. Iran is likely to dominate the campaign ahead of the election, to be held in early 2013



LIKUD

Benjamin Netanyahu Has won support due

to steady handling of economic crisis. Backs settlers, sceptical on peace talks



LABOUR

Shelly Yachimovich Aims to narrow Israel's widening economic divide, and resume

peace negotiations with Palestinians



YISRAEL BEITEINU

Avigdor Lieberman Hawkish, secular ultra-nationalist. but supports two-state solution, alienating religious right



SHAS

Rabbi Ovadia Yosef Ultra-orthodox party supported by poorer oriental Jews, centrist on territory, left-wing on social welfare



ΚΔΡΙΜΔ

Shaul Mofaz Biggest single party in 2009 but has lost ground since. Backs

land exchanges with Palestinians

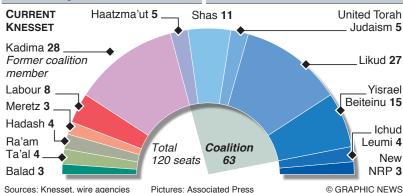
Sources: Knesset, wire agencies



HAATZMA'UT

Ehud Barak Split from Labour in

2011, expected to suffer from Labour revival



Pictures: Associated Press