LEBANON

WHAT HAPPENED IN OCTOBER?
In a significant breakthrough, Lebanon and Israel signed a maritime border deal following months of Israel-Hizbollah tensions. Parliament failed to elect a president before the end of Michel Aoun’s term, while government formation and progress toward reforms remained stalled.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?
The maritime agreement defuses a major flashpoint between Israel and Hizbollah. The presidential vacuum marks another twist in Lebanon’s downward political spiral, reducing already-slim prospects for exiting the crisis and enacting reforms required to unlock International Monetary Fund (IMF) support.

SEPTEMBER TRENDS
Parliament failed to elect President Michel Aoun’s replacement. Cabinet formation remained stalled. Street clashes and bank heists underscored growing insecurity and the deepening economic crisis. Lebanon and Israel came closer to a maritime border deal.

TRENDS TIMELINE

WHAT TO WATCH
A presidential vacuum and weakened government further complicate efforts to address the economic crisis amid soaring energy prices as winter approaches. Parliament plans to continue the search for a new president, but an acceptable candidate remains elusive.

Benjamin Netanyahu, whose coalition won Israel’s early November elections, vowed to “neutralise” the maritime border deal. Lebanon’s prime minister and the U.S. expressed confidence that the deal would remain in place despite Netanyahu’s election.

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