

Iraqi political deadlock breaks world record

BBC ONLINE

Political parties in Iraq have broken the world record for the amount of time taken to form a new government.

In 1977, it took 208 days for Dutch politicians to agree to a coalition.

Correspondents say the Iraqis are likely to take a good deal longer, as more negotiations are needed to resolve March's inconclusive election result.

On Friday, the main Shia coalition said it had only now decided to nominate the incumbent Prime Minister, Nouri Maliki, for a second term of office.

But the National Alliance - a merger of Maliki's State of Law coalition and the Iraqi National Alliance of the radical Shia cleric Moqtada Sadr - is four seats short of the parliamentary majority needed to confirm the appointment.

The secular Iraqiya bloc led by former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, which narrowly won the election, has said it will oppose such a move.

It took nearly three months just for the results of Iraq's parliamentary election on 7 March to be ratified, after numerous complaints and appeals.

Since then, the BBC's Jim Muir in Baghdad says, the bargaining has gone round in circles.

Neither Allawi, whose alliance got most of the Sunni Arab vote and came out narrowly ahead with 91 seats in the Council of Representatives, nor Maliki, whose State of Law coalition came second with two seats fewer, has been able to muster a big enough coalition to make a majority, our correspondent says.

However, neither is willing to give it up and let the other lead the new government, and that is what is about, he adds.

All agreed at the outset that the four major factions - including the Iraqi National Alliance and the Kurdistan Alliance - should all be included.

And despite agreement now by most Shia groups to nominate Maliki as the premier, there is still a lot of ground to cover before he can settle back into the job, our correspondent says.



This picture shows a general view of the train accident in Indonesian Pemalang city yesterday where at least 36 people were killed earlier in the day when the passenger train slammed into the back of another train. Police said human error was to blame for the accident.

Train crash in Indonesia kills 36

AP, Petarukan

A train crashed into another parked at a railway station in central Indonesia early yesterday, killing at least 36 people and injuring dozens, many seriously, officials and witnesses said.

Rescuers spent hours searching the wreckage for trapped survivors of the accident, which occurred just before 3 am, as many passengers were sleeping.

A train from the capital, Jakarta, plowed into the rear of a train that was sitting at a station in Petarukan, a coastal city in Central Java province, said Transportation Ministry spokesman Bambang Ervan.

The force of the crash knocked several carriages off the track, and twisted debris from the train littered the area.

"Bloody corpses were hanging from the carriages," said Anwar Sumarno, a 24-year-old university student who had been sitting near the front of the stopped train.

"The injured were screaming in the darkness, but there was nothing we could do," he said. "Everyone was in a state of shock."

It took almost an hour for rescue workers and ambulances to arrive.

Musharraf comeback looks remote

NEWS ANALYSIS

Pervez Musharraf has spent two years building a Facebook following and cultivating the media but few believe his audacious plan to recapture power has any chance of success.

Aside from the small matter of possible death or arrest if he steps foot on home soil, there is little sign he can win over the politicians he alienated, the judges he sacked, his former underlings at the military or the Americans.

From the comforts of self-imposed exile in London, the 67-year-old unveiled the All Pakistan Muslim League on Friday and has said he would contest elections in 2013.

The current climate could not be more uncomfortable for President Asif Ali Zardari and his Pakistan People's Party (PPP), facing an onslaught of criticism at home over perceived economic, political and governance failings.

With the military said to be mulling ways to shake up the coalition, the Supreme Court flexing its muscles and the media calling for Zardari's head, now could be the perfect time for the return of a leader remembered for his firm grip on power.

The government's perceived shambolic response to floods, a deadly threat from Taliban militants and an economy in meltdown have all shaken a country still getting used to democracy after almost a decade of military rule.

But aside from a tiny band of loyalists, none of the principal powerbrokers and few people on the street believe Musharraf is the answer.

"I wouldn't read too much into him announcing his party. The going would be very, very tough for him if he did decide to return," Pakistani political and security analyst Imtiaz

Brazil to vote for president today

AFP, Sao Paulo

Brazil's 135 million voters appeared poised to elect Dilma Rousseff, a former Marxist guerrilla turned career civil servant, as their first woman president in elections today.

Rousseff, 62, held a dominating lead over her rival in all the polls, suggesting she will take over next year from her mentor and former boss, outgoing President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

With campaigning officially suspended two days before the elections -- which will also select federal and state legislators, governors and much of the senate -- Rousseff's competitors have little chance to make up ground.

Palestinians mull ME talks walk-out over settlements

BBC ONLINE

The Palestinian leadership has said it will not continue peace talks with Israel unless a freeze on Jewish settlements in the West Bank resumes.

"The leadership confirms that the resumption of talks requires tangible steps, the first of them a freeze on settlements," said senior Palestinian official Yasser Abed Rabbo.

The Palestinians will not make a final decision until after an Arab League meeting due to take place next week.

Rabbo was speaking after Palestinian President Mahmoud Mr Abbas met the Palestinian political leadership in Ramallah to agree on a stance after Israel refused to extend a ban on settlement building in the West Bank which expired last Sunday.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said an extension could fracture his right-wing coalition government.

Israel has occupied the West Bank since the Middle East war of 1967, settling some 500,000 Jews in more than 100 settlements, which are held to be illegal under international law, although Israel disputes this. About 2.5 million Palestinians live in the West Bank.

The Islamist movement Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip and is not taking part in the talks, has urged Mr Abbas to withdraw.

Meanwhile, US Middle East envoy George Mitchell is visiting Arab countries in an attempt to secure wider backing for continued peace negotiations.

Direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians resumed in September after a break of nearly two years.

Chile miners could be rescued this month

REUTERS, Copiapo

The 33 Chilean miners trapped for almost two months could be freed in the second half of this month as rescuers drill closer to their refuge deep below the Atacama desert, Chile's mining minister said on Friday.

The men have been trapped 2,300 feet underground since a cave-in on August 5. Their fight for survival has captivated the country and drawn messages of support from Pope Benedict and World Cup soccer stars.

Guatemala calls US test 'crime'

BBC ONLINE

US testing that infected hundreds of Guatemalans with gonorrhoea and syphilis more than 60 years ago was a "crime against humanity", Guatemalan President Alvaro Colom has said.

President Barack Obama has apologised for the medical tests, in which mentally ill patients and prisoners were infected without their consent.

Obama told Colom the 1940s-era experiments ran contrary to American values, Guatemala said.

The US has promised an investigation.

'SHOCKING, TRAGIC, REPREENSIBLE'

Syphilis can cause heart problems, blindness, mental illness and even death, and although the patients were treated it is not known how many recovered.

Evidence of the programme was unearthed by Prof Susan Reverby at Wellesley College. She says the Guatemalan government gave permission for the tests.

No offer of compensation has yet been made, but an investigation will be launched into the specifics of the study, which took place between 1946 and 1948.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said on Friday the news was "shocking, it's tragic, it's reprehensible".

In an interview with the BBC, Colom said the test subjects were "victims of rights abuses".

"There's been a very strong reaction in the Guatemalan media and by my compatriots," he said.

"Of course, there may have been similar incidents in other countries around the world, but speaking as the president and a Guatemalan, I would have preferred that these events had never happened on this soil."

EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, TEJGAON INDUSTRIAL AREA, DHAKA-1208.

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

EDCL Invites short dated International Tender for supply & Installation of Packaging Machine for Condom Manufacturing on C&F@ Chittagong by Sea/Benapole by Road basis:

Sl. No.	Tender No. & Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & Opening
1.	EDCL/PUR/KELP/MC/Tender/2010/282 dated 30/09/2010	Stripping Machine : 01 Aluminium Foil Sealing Machine for packing of Condom Qty : 02 unit	Tk. 500.00/ set Equivalent to US\$ 8.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 20/10/2010 At : 11.00 AM. Opening : 20/10/2010 At : 11.15 AM.

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender. EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N.B. This information is also available at our Website: www.edcl.gov.bd

(Md. Feroze-ul-Alam)
Director Operation & Incharge,
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Ref. No: TSS/EoI(CS)/Solar-battery/67 Dated: 02/10/2010

Expression of Interest (EoI) for Consultancy Service

Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Limited (TSS), a state owned public limited company intends to setup plant in the following fields:

- (1) Solar PV panel, capacity of 100 MW/year.
- (2) Solar panel by Nano solar Technology, capacity of 50 MW/year.
- (3) VRLA, Maintenance Free & other batteries.

To execute the projects TSS intends to employ consultant(s) for commercial & technical advise in planning, listing of all related equipment and raw material, procurement of equipment & raw material, survey, design, preparation of tender documents, implementation and supervision of the plant and other related all services for setting up above plants. Complete & separate proposal against Expression of Interest (EoI) are invited from qualified local and/or foreign well reputed individual Consultant/Consult Firms in the relevant fields.

As a general requirement the Consultant/Consultant Firm should have sufficient experience as consultant in the relevant field. The Consultant/Consultant Firm(s) should have managerial capacity, quality assurance, compliance to perform the service required. The Consultant/Consultant Firm should be conversant of the duty, prompt and compatible in providing related plant individually.

In this regard, a discussion meeting may be held on 16th October, 2010 at 02-30pm. Interested persons/parties may visit the site of Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Ltd. (TSS) before submitting the Expression of Interest (EoI).

The proposal accompanied by a forwarding letter in the bidders original letter pad have to be submitted properly signed and stamped with all the relevant papers and documentary proofs for the sake of the evaluation. Proposals will be evaluated on QBS basis and expected duration of the consultancy service will be initially for 1(one) year (up to final production).

The Consultant Firms should submit the following information:

- a) Personal/company profile.
- b) Description of experience in the respective field.
- c) Availability of key professionals (CVs with signature, date & their confirmation letter).
- d) Details package-wise consultancy fee in local/foreign currency for each work.
- e) 10% earnest money against quoted price in favour of TSS is required.

Proposal for individual items should be submitted in favour of Managing Director, Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Limited, Tongi, Gazipur at the latest 15th November 2010 at 17.00 hours (Bangladesh time). Interested parties may contact for any query by e-mail at tdbtss@btcl.net.bd/tdi.ismail.tss@gmail.com or by phone 02-9802324/01670001287 or by fax +880-2-9812700.

Short-listed Consultant/Consultant Firm may be asked to make a presentation of their work at TSS, Tongi on an appointed date.

Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

Md. Rafiqul Alam
Manager (CS & Prefab)
Phone: 02-9802324

Long road to justice for Congo victims

AFP, Nairobi

Rights groups yesterday welcomed a UN report on crimes committed in Democratic Republic of Congo as a first step towards accountability but said the potential for victims to win justice remained slim.

The 560-page name-and-shame exercise published by the UN on Friday highlighted an "inventory" of crimes committed by the forces of at least seven African countries between 1993 and 2003 in DR Congo.

"Something has to be done about it (the report's findings). I don't think it's going to be easy," said Suliman Baldo, the Africa director at the International Centre for Transitional Justice.

"I don't think something serious will happen without sustained and targeted campaigning by civil society and media," Baldo told AFP. "There is a real danger that nothing does get done."

Request For Proposal (RFP)
Re-advertisement

Information, Education And Communications (IEC) Service Provider Under LGSP-LIC

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh seeks proposals from interested and well qualified organization/firms for "Information, Education And Communications (IEC) Service Provider Under LGSP-LIC". The selected Company will provide its technical skills in order to reach the overall objectives of the IEC strategy. At the end of the assignment the firm will provide a comprehensive final report with the details of the overall assignment and of the single activities implemented.

Submission of Proposal: The envelope should state "Information, Education And Communications (IEC) Service Provider Under LGSP-LIC" and should be marked as 'Confidential' and addressed to the UNDP Procurement Unit, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. The deadline for submission of Proposal is 14 October 11:00 AM. Proposals should be submitted to REGISTRY in IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

All interested firms may obtain the Bidding Documents from website http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php

Submission Procedure: The offer should comprise of Printed and Electronic Version for technical and financial proposals at two 2 separate envelopes.

UNDP
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