

## Nationalists ahead in Kyrgyz poll

BBC ONLINE

Early results in Kyrgyzstan's parliamentary election show a narrow lead for the opposition nationalist party Ata Zhurt.

Members of its leadership worked under President Kurmanbek Bakiyev, who was ousted in a mass uprising in April. The pro-government Social Democrats and four other parties passed the 5% mark required to gain seats in parliament.

Analysts say no party has an overall majority so parties will have to unite to form a coalition government.

Sunday's election comes just months after 400 people died in inter-ethnic violence in the south of the country.

Turnout was 56% nationwide and even higher in the southern city of Osh, which saw some of the worst of last June's clashes between the Kyrgyz majority and ethnic Uzbeks.

**Coalition cabinet**  
In all, 29 parties are competing for 120 seats in parliament.

Early results suggest that coalition-building will be needed to form a parliamentary majority with the right to select a prime minister.

# Nobel winner dedicates Peace Prize to Tiananmen victims

## China cancels meeting with Norwegian minister

AFP, AP, New York/Beijing

Liu Xiaobo, the first Chinese citizen to win the Nobel Peace Prize, has dedicated his award to the "lost souls" who died during the repression of the Tiananmen pro-democracy movement, an international rights group said Sunday.

The US-based group Human Rights in China (HRIC) quoted Liu Xiaobo's wife Liu Xia, and said she had been placed under house arrest by authorities in Beijing shortly after speaking to her husband.

Via her Twitter account, Liu Xia said she had been placed under house arrest at her Beijing home both before and after travelling to the prison in northeastern China where her husband is being held to inform him of his prize.

"Brothers, I have returned home. On the eighth (of October) they placed me under house arrest. I don't know when I will be able to see anyone," said the Sunday night Twitter posting.

"My mobile phone has been

broken and I cannot call or receive calls. I saw Xiaobo and told him on the ninth at the prison that he won the prize. I will let you know more later. Everyone, please help me (re)tweet. Thanks," she said.

"This award is for the lost souls of June Fourth," the group quoted Liu Xiaobo as telling his wife, referring to the 1989 crackdown on the Chinese government on student protesters in Tiananmen Square.

"He said that it was due to their non-violent spirit in giving their lives for peace, freedom, and democracy," Liu Xia was quoted as saying, adding that her husband had been moved into tears as he finished speaking.

At least two dozen police, plainclothes officers and other security personnel were seen deployed Monday at the compound where Liu Xia lives, interrogating returning residents and preventing journalists from entering.

Norway said Monday that China has called off a meeting with the Norwegian fisheries minister just days after Beijing warned that the

Nobel Peace Prize award to a jailed Chinese dissident would harm relations between the countries.

The move was announced a day after Liu Xiaobo, the imprisoned democracy campaigner, was allowed a brief, tearful meeting with his wife, during which he dedicated the award to the "lost souls" of the 1989 military crackdown on student demonstrators.

Beijing had reacted angrily to Friday's announcement honouring Liu, calling him a criminal and warning Norway's government that relations would suffer, even though the Nobel committee is an independent organization.

Meanwhile, the spokeswoman for another US rights group said that her organization had also confirmed from a reliable source that Liu Xia had been detained.

"We have a source who is able to confirm that this is absolutely accurate," she told AFP.

Immediately after Liu the winner of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, his wife, authorities arranged to take Liu Xia to the

prison in northeast China where he is being detained. They said she went to the prison on Saturday and returned on Sunday.

But rights activists said that after the visit, Liu Xia's mobile phone was confiscated and that she was being held incommunicado, and that her phone had been taken away.

Meanwhile, European diplomats were prevented from visiting Liu's wife, who has been living under house arrest since Friday. Liu Xia has been told that if she wants to leave her home she must be escorted in a police car, the New York-based group Human Rights in China said.

Simon Sharpe, the first secretary of political affairs of the EU delegation in China, said he wanted to see Liu Xia at her home in Beijing to personally deliver a letter of congratulations on the peace award from the president of the European Commission.

Sharpe was accompanied by diplomats from about 10 embassies, including Switzerland, Sweden, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Belgium, Italy and Australia.



## Peace

Awarded to Liu Xiaobo, jailed Chinese dissident

Recognised for his long and non-violent struggle for human rights

Previous laureates	
2009	Barack Obama (US)
2008	Martti Ahtisaari (Finland)
2007	Al Gore (US) and the IPCC (the UN's climate change panel)
2006	Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh) and Grameen Bank
2005	The IAEA and its director Mohamed ElBaradei (Egypt)
2004	Wangari Maathai (Kenya)
2003	Shirin Ebadi (Iran)
2002	Jimmy Carter (US)
2001	The UN and its Secretary General Kofi Annan (Ghana)

AFP

## Dalai Lama criticises China's Nobel Peace response

UN experts urge release of laureate

AFP, AP, Tokyo/Geneva

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama yesterday criticised China's irate response to the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to jailed dissident Liu Xiaobo, Kyodo News reported in Tokyo.

Speaking to Kyodo News at Tokyo's Narita airport, the Dalai Lama, who won the same prize in 1989, said the Chinese government does "not appreciate different opinions at all".

He also said building an open, transparent society is "the only way to save all people of China" but that some "hardliners" inside the leadership were stuck in an "old way of thinking," Kyodo said.

Meanwhile, four UN human rights experts called on China to immediately release Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo. The independent UN-appointed investigators say Liu is "a courageous human rights defender who has continuously and peacefully advocated for greater respect for human rights" in China.

## Europe should fix itself first: Israeli FM

BBC ONLINE

Israel's foreign minister has told visiting European foreign ministers to solve Europe's problems before taking on the Middle East.

Avigdor Lieberman's remarks came during a visit by Bernard Kouchner of France and Spain's Miguel Angel Moratinos.

Earlier, Kouchner had said that the option of the UN Security Council declaring a Palestinian state could not be ruled out if negotiations failed.

The European ministers are due to meet Palestinian and Jordanian leaders.

They are in the region as part of efforts to save the Middle East peace talks, which are in danger of collapsing.

Palestinian officials say they will pull out of talks if Israel refuses to extend its partial freeze on settlement building in the occupied West Bank.



Israeli border policemen detain a Palestinian youth who was protesting over the destruction of his family house, which Israeli forces claim was built without a permit, yesterday near the Palestinian Bani Na'im village, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. PHOTO: AFP

## Israeli cabinet passes loyalty bill; Arabs angry

AP, Jerusalem

Israel's Cabinet approved a bill on Sunday that would require new non-Jewish citizens to pledge a loyalty oath to a "Jewish and democratic" state, language that triggered charges of racism from Arab lawmakers who see it as undermining the rights of the country's Arab minority.

The measure was largely symbolic, since few non-Jews apply for Israeli citizenship. Nevertheless, it infuriated the Arab minority and stoked tensions with Palestinians at a time when fledgling peace talks are deadlocked over Israel's refusal to extend a moratorium on new building in West Bank Jewish settlements.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the bill reflected the essence of Israel at a time when he said many in the world are trying to blur the connection between the Jewish people and their homeland.

"The state of Israel is the national state of the Jewish people and is a democratic state in which all its citizens - Jews and non-Jews - enjoy full equal rights," he said. "Whoever wants to join us has to recognize us."

Ahmad Tibi, an Arab lawmaker, called the move a provocation. "Its purpose is to solidify the inferior status of Arabs by law," he said. "Netanyahu and his government are limiting the sphere of democracy in Israel and deepening the prejudice against its Arab minority."

Unlike their Palestinian brethren in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israel's Arabs are citizens, with the right to vote, travel freely and collect generous social benefits. But they have long suffered from discrimination and second-class status. Arabs make up roughly one-fifth of Israel's 7 million people.

## Child violence debates on

BBC ONLINE

An Israeli parliamentary committee has been debating the issue of the involvement of children in violent activities after two young Palestinian boys were run over and injured by an Israeli right-wing activist.

David Be'eri says he hit the boys because they were throwing stones at him.

Palestinians and human rights groups have criticised his actions.

The incident happened in the East Jerusalem district of Silwan.

The district sees frequent protests by local Palestinians against Jewish families and organisations who have moved into the area.

Be'eri, one of the leading settlers, knocked down and injured the two boys as they threw stones at his car.

## Rushdie writing memoir of years in hiding

REUTERS, London

Salman Rushdie is working on a memoir of his years in hiding after Iran's then supreme leader Ayatollah Khomeini issued a death edict against him in 1989 for writing "The Satanic Verses", deemed blasphemous to Islam.

The British author has also just published a children's book called "Luka and the Fire of Life", which he wrote for his younger son Milan, and has almost completed the screenplay for a movie version of acclaimed 1981 novel "Midnight's Children".

The 63-year-old said of the memoir that there was an "information vacuum" to fill, and that he finally felt it was time to confront a difficult period in his life.

"I'm beginning to write this memoir," Rushdie told Reuters in an interview. "I've written about ... 100 pages of book and I reckon very roughly that feels like a quarter of the story. I'm aiming, in my mind, for the end of next year (to finish it)."

## CHILE MINER RESCUE NEARS

# Light at end of tunnel

REUTERS, Copiapo

Chile's 33 trapped miners and their relatives were counting down the hours yesterday after rescuers finished reinforcing an escape shaft to avoid a last minute disaster as their two month ordeal draws to an end.

Engineers completed lining part of the narrow, nearly 2,050 foot-long (625-meter) shaft with metal tubes on Monday morning, the government said. They will now do test runs with special escape capsules, and the government aims to start hoisting the men to freedom one by one on Wednesday.

They installed the tubes to head off the risk of rocks from the side of the drill shaft falling down onto the capsules dubbed "Phoenix" after the mythical bird, and blocking them from reaching the surface.

"I'm so tired. It's been far too many days doing nothing, just sitting waiting," said Alicia Campos, whose son Daniel Herrera is among the trapped miners, as she lined up for a fish sandwich at the tent settlement near the mine entrance dubbed "Camp Hope."

She wanted her son to take up another profession.

Mining Minister Laurence Golborne said on Sunday rescuers could start lifting the miners to the surface on Tuesday evening if all went

well, as one of the world's most complex rescue operations and most stunning survival stories nears its climax.

President Sebastian Pinera, who has ordered a revamp of mine safety regulations in the wake of the accident, has said he plans to visit the mine on Tuesday. One of the 33 miners is a Bolivian national, and Bolivia's President Evo Morales has vowed to visit the mine for his rescue.

Rescue officials said they would push ahead boring a separate shaft with a rig usually used to drill for oil as a back-up plan, just in case there are any complications. They have halted a third drill.

In a land still recovering from a devastating February earthquake, celebrations broke out across Chile on Saturday when the drill broke through 65 days after the August 5 collapse at the small gold and copper mine in the far northern Atacama desert.

**PRAYERS, VIGILS, WAITING**

After weeks of prayers, vigils and agonizing waiting, anxiety is giving way to joy as wives, parents and children count down to reunions with their loved ones.

The men, who have set a world record for the length of time workers have survived underground after a mining accident, have been doing exercises to keep their weight down for their ascent.

## Mexican mayor-elect killed, 12th this year

AFP, Oaxaca

The mayor-elect of a small town in Oaxaca state has been slain, police have said, on the heels of 11 murders of mayors in Mexico so far this year.

Antonio Jimenez, who was about to take over the mayor's post in Martires de Tacubaya, a town of 1,200, was murdered Friday on his way home from working in the country. There was no motive or suspect immediately known, police said.

Jimenez, 47, was a teacher and member of the centre-left Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

Authorities have blamed the murders of the other mayors on organized crime and drug gangs.

Violence has spiralled across the country since President Felipe Calderon launched a military crackdown on organized crime gangs, involving some 50,000 troops, in 2006.

## Schwarzenegger 'offered post of Moscow mayor'

AFP, Moscow

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev opened up a new career opportunity to California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger yesterday, jokingly offering to him the mayoral seat of Moscow.

"Moscow these days does not have a mayor," Medvedev said, "I know you will be stepping down shortly. If you had Russian citizenship you could get a job here."

The mock invitation to make yet another career twist came after Medvedev dramatically sacked Moscow's mayor of 18 years Yury Luzhkov at the end of September, temporarily replacing him with the mayor's former deputy Vladimir Resin.

A list of candidates for the job has been announced by majority United Russia party this weekend. The four potential appointees, needless to say, do not include Schwarzenegger.



The Virgin Galactic SpaceShip2 (VSS Enterprise) glides toward earth on its first test flight after release from the mother ship, 'WhiteKnight2' (VMS Eve) over the Mojave, California area on early Sunday. The craft was piloted by engineer and test pilot Pete Siebold from Scaled Composites. PHOTO: AFP

### Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2010-October

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