

# Quest for new Iraqi prime minister

Embattled Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari has cleared the way for Shi'a leaders to withdraw his nomination for a second term, a step that could mark a breakthrough in the months-long effort to form a new government



Ibrahim al-Jaafari



Hussain al-Shahristani

► **Dec 15:** Iraq holds general election. Shi'a **United Iraqi Alliance** wins 130 of 275 seats in parliament. Negotiations begin to form coalition government of Shi'a, Sunni Arab and Kurdish parties

► **Feb 12:** **Ibrahim al-Jaafari** elected prime minister by just one vote. He is rejected by Sunnis and Kurds, who blame him for rise in secular violence

► **Feb 22:** Blast at **Askariya** mosque – major Shi'a shrine in **Samarra** – sparks reprisal attacks against Sunnis

► **Mar 16:** Parliament meets briefly but fails to reach deal to form government

► **Apr 7:** More than 1,000 Iraqi civilians reported killed in violence in past month

► **Apr 21-22:** Shi'a alliance votes on al-Jaafari's candidacy. Possible other candidates are **Jawad al-Maliki** and **Ali al-Adeeb** – members of al-Jaafari's **Dawa** party – deputy speaker of parliament **Hussain al-Shahristani** and Vice President **Adil Abdul-Mahdi**



Jawad al-Maliki



Adil Abdul-Mahdi

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