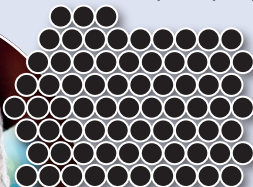
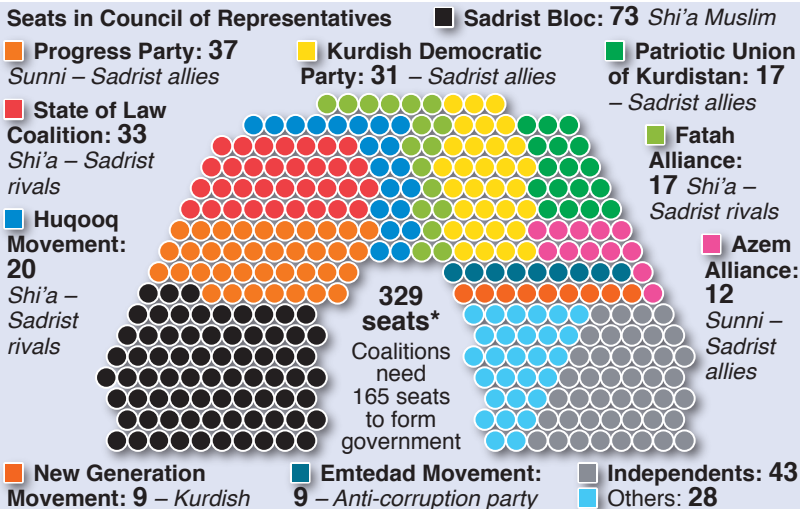


Iraq sinks deeper into political crisis

The party of firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr has quit the government, raising fears of conflict if his Iran-backed rivals form an administration to replace outgoing Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi



■ Jun 2022: Moqtada al-Sadr's 73 lawmakers submit their resignations in protest at eight months of political deadlock since election in October 2021

■ Sadrist bloc 73 seats: To be allocated to second place finishers in election

■ Power-sharing: Under “*muhasasa*” system, President is Kurdish, Prime Minister is Shia and Parliamentary Speaker is Sunni

■ Deadlock: Sadrists have tried to form coalition majority with Kurds and Sunnis

■ Shia rift: Some Sadrist rivals are willing to join coalition, but al-Sadr rejects inclusion of State of Law party

**Nine seats are allocated to minorities: five seats to Christians, one seat each to Feyli Kurds, Ezidis, Shabaks, and Mandaean*