



Queues grew quickly outside polling stations, like here in Gatundu, Kenya.

Kenyans vote in crucial election

Nairobi: Kenyans are voting in an election that observers describe as the most important in the country's history.

It is the first time a vote has taken place under a new constitution, designed to prevent a repeat of violence that followed the 2007 polls. More than 1000 people died when supporters of rival candidates clashed over a contested result. Despite appeals for calm, reports say at least two police officers died in clashes near Mombasa early on Monday.

- BBC

Queen Elizabeth taken to hospital

London: Britain's Queen Elizabeth has been hospitalised over an apparent stomach infection that has ailed her for days, a rare instance of ill health sidelining the long-reigning monarch.

The Queen will have to cancel a visit to Rome and other engagements as she recovers and outside experts said she may have to be rehydrated intravenously.

Buckingham Palace said the 86-year-old Queen had experienced symptoms of gastroenteritis and was being examined at London's King Edward VII Hospital. - AP



Queen Elizabeth

HIV baby cured at 30 hours

Jackson: Doctors announced on Sunday that a baby had been cured of an HIV infection for the first time, a startling development that could lead to more aggressive treatment of babies infected at birth and a sharp reduction in the number of children living with the virus that causes AIDS.

The baby, born in rural Mississippi, was treated with antiretroviral drugs starting around 30 hours after birth, something that is not usually done. If further study shows this works in other babies, it will almost certainly change the way newborns of infected mothers are treated all over the world. - AP

Cardinals to begin talks on new Pope

Rome: Roman Catholic cardinals from around the world are due to meet in Rome to begin the process of electing the next Pope.

The College of Cardinals will hold daily talks leading up to a conclave in which a new Pope will be chosen.

The election process comes after Pope Benedict XVI stepped down after nearly eight years in office leading the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics. He was the first pontiff to resign in 600 years. - BBC

Bersani vows to form government

Rome: Democratic Party leader Pier Luigi Bersani, whose coalition won the most votes in Italy's inconclusive elections, insisted he would form a government on his own without seeking an alliance with his main rivals - Silvio Berlusconi and comic-turned-politician Beppe Grillo.

"We have 460 parliamentarians, double what the right got and triple what Grillo won," he said in an interview last night on state-owned RAI3 television's *Che Tempo Che Fa* programme. "So we will have the first word." Mr Bersani is trying to dispel concern about political paralysis in Italy after the Feb. 24-25 vote produced a hung parliament, with his forces controlling the Chamber of Deputies while falling far short of a majority in the Senate. - AP



Pier Luigi Bersani

By FARISHA AHMED

Fijians are very musical people, says Audiopharmacy band's vocalist Ras K'dee.

The band which has been in Fiji for the past one week was able to bring out local talents in the people of Fiji.

Invited by the United States Embassy to Fiji, Audiopharmacy was here to spread positive messages and inspire more local artists to create original music.

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announced a partnership with the Association of American Voices to engage with people across the world through music.

Known as American Music Abroad, this people-to-people exchange featured a wide variety of American musical genres through international cultural exchange initiatives that will reach more than 40 countries around the world this year.

"The people of Fiji are very lively, musical and they seemed to enjoy all the music," Mr Ras K'dee said.

"The response we got from all our shows showed that there are so many talents here in Fiji," he said.

The band performed their last show at the Fiji National University, Raiwai Campus, where they were cheered on passionately by the students of Veitu Primary School.

The students turned the live band performance into a concert where the students joined the group and performed with the artists.

Roatina Pihaatae of Class Eight played the guitar with the group and was able to overcome her nervousness.

"Actually I was scared at first because this is the first time I have performed in front of an audience, but I felt great," Roatina said.

"I think it is good opportunity for us to participate and get involved with all kinds of music,"



Roatina Pihaatae and Rosi Tora of Veitu Primary School with Audiopharmacy guitarist Taeo (left) at Fiji National University, Raiwai. Photo: US EMBASSY



Ras K'dee and Keepyahjoy entertaining the crowd at Fiji National University, Raiwai. Photo US EMBASSY

she said.

Mr Ras K'dee found the show one of the exciting ones.

"I have been to many places with the band but this kind of response is incredible. People here are very passionate about music

and it is good thing," he said.

"We want people to be able to self express themselves and come out of their shells and promote their talents," he urged.

The four-member band arrived in Fiji on Thursday and

since has performed across Nadi and Suva.

They will be leaving the country today (Tuesday) for New Zealand where they will perform for the Auckland Arts Festival on March 6, 2013.

Waste Management training launched

By FARISHA AHMED

Agence Francaise de Development, Fiji National University, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and Griffith University have teamed up to train members of the Pacific island countries on waste management techniques.

Speaking during the opening of the Regional Solid Waste Management Training Initiative yesterday, Minister for Environment Colonel Samuela Saumataua said growing volumes of solid and hazardous wastes were major threats to the environment.

He said globalisation was accelerating the transition of Pacific communities towards consumer economies, with increasing urbanisation, migration, and participation in international trade.

"This is resulting in an escalation in solid, liquid wastes, more shipping and land transport and more infrastructures throughout the region," he said.

"The lack of controls on imported goods, together with the lack of capacity to manage waste threatens to undermine the quality and health of the ecosystem," Colonel Saumataua said.

The training programme, funded by the Agence de Development (AFD), is a \$1.5-million two-week training project to recognise the priority of waste management in the Pacific.

Director of waste management and pollution control division Dr David Haynes said countries needed to change their attitudes towards waste.

"We need proper care and management policies in practice," he said.

"This training is designed to develop trainers who will be able to facilitate training programmes in solid waste management in their respective countries," Dr Haynes said. During the training, members will be able to learn about policies and strategy approaches to solid waste management, financial sus-



Participants during the opening session of the Waste Management Training.

tainability, sustainable development of waste management treatment and operating centres.

Dr Haynes commended the work of Fiji Government for their effort on waste management in the country. "We are thankful to the AFD for recognising the priority of

waste management for the Pacific island nations," he said.

The training will be delivered annually and for the first two years FNU will be supported by Griffith University with the aim of increasing the capacity of the university in waste management.