

# Formation of new government still remains unclear

Rarely has an election winner been so embarrassed, says paper

By CHRISTINA SCHULTHOFF  
Staff Reporter

**Dubai** Traffic light, Jamaica or grand coalition? After general election on Sunday, one thing was clear in the German press yesterday: nothing is clear. No green light for go, just a combination of colours representing either a traffic light, a Caribbean flag but not a rainbow coalition.

"Anxious expectations now govern the mood," writes *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*.

## Consensus

"It is completely unclear, if Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder (SPD) or Union chancellor nominee Angela Merkel (CDU) will be able to build a government," writes *Die Welt*. "The duel goes into overtime," according to *Die Zeit*.

Guido Westerwelle and the free democrats are celebrated as the clear winners. "The only real winner of the elections is Guido Westerwelle," writes *Die Zeit* newspaper.

"Indeed, nothing will work out in any possible coalition without the FDP."

*Die Welt* agrees: "Victors

of the election with strong gains are FDP and the Left Party." *Bild* writes, "The sensational winner is Guido Westerwelle."

There is also a consensus that Angela Merkel lost, despite beating Schroeder. "This election result is a debacle for the Union [CDU] and its nominee for chancellor." *Sueddeutsche*

**"Victors of the election with strong gains are FDP and the Left Party."**

*Zeitung* writes, "Rarely has an election winner been so embarrassed."

"Merkel has failed politically," writes *Die Tageszeitung*, while *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* worries about what Merkel's loss means: "Angela Merkel's courage to give Germans a somewhat accurate picture of the crisis this country faces has

not paid off. This must worry us." But while some agree that Schroeder is a winner despite losing, others beg to differ. "Everyone who could follow the first part of the election evening live recognised without difficulty who made the stronger serves in this match — rhetorically, psychologically, body language-wise. It was, as in the first TV duel, clearly Gerhard Schroeder," writes *Die Zeit*.

## Grand finale

"The chancellor has earned himself new respect with his grand finale," writes *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*. *Bild* agrees: "Respect for the chancellor!" their headline said.

## Die Welt

But *Die Welt* disagrees, saying that "Two losers want to become chancellor." *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* writes: "[In the end] it was only about preventing a black-yellow [CDU-FDP] victory...they [the SPD] celebrated, that they have made the republic unreformable and maybe even ungovernable for an incalculable time to come. What a victory!"