Press CNTRL+CLICK to follow link

IRAQI NEWS 27 NOV 2004

- Iraqi guards raid armed group hideout, seize car bombs, weapons - Al-Sharqiyah
- Friday sermon slams previous week’s mosque storming - Al-Sharqiyah
- US ambassador tours Fallujah - Al-Sharqiyah
- Shi’i authority threatens “unprecedented” action if election delayed - Al-Diyar TV
- Party leader Al-Pachachi clarifies postponement demand - Al-Sharqiyah
- INC says postponement would create “constitutional problem” - Voice of the Mujahidin
- Allawi to meet opposition figures in Amman - Al-Sharqiyah
- Iraqi imams urge people to vote, denounce terrorism - Voice of the Mujahidin
- Iraqi National Guard arrests six in Mosul - Voice of the Mujahidin
- US forces tell foreign fighters to leave Al-Ramadi or face death

IRAQI BROADCAST MEDIA SUMMARIES, 27 NOV 04

- Programme Summary of Al-Iraqiyah TV News 27 Nov 04
- Programme Summary of Iraqi Islamic Party Dar al-Salam radio, 27 Nov 04

IRAQI PRESS QOUTES, 27 NOV 04

- Iraqi paper criticize Iraqi forces that came along with the occupation forces - Al-Dustur
- Elections and security - Al-Ufuq
- A poll, surveying people’s opinions on the upcoming Iraqi elections - Al-Mashriq
KURDISH NEWS, 27 NOV 04

- Police officer killed, three guards wounded at checkpoint gunfight- KurdSat TV
- One killed, one wounded in attack on police station- KurdSat TV
- Kurd magazine vows to avenge killed Kurdish National Guards: Kurdistan magazine

IRAQI NEWS 27 Nov 2004

Iraqi guards raid armed group hideout, seize car bombs, weapons- Al-Sharqiyah

Al-Sharqiyah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic, 27 Nov 04: The Iraqi National Guard has raided a hideout used by an armed group in Baghdad's southern Al-Durah area, arrested its members and seized a large quantity of weapons and explosives in their possession, Al-Sharqiyah TV reported on 27 November. The station cited an "authoritative source" at the Defence Ministry saying that the group, which the source described as terrorist, used the Yasin mosque area in Abu-Chir as its base. It said the source refused to disclose the number people detained or their identities, but noted that the National Guard found seven booby-trapped cars; nine Strella rockets; 30 RPG launchers; 40 RPG shells; five medium-range machine-guns and 25 Kalashnikovs. He also said two RPGs, equipment for preparing booby-trapped cars, 35 grenades, 20 mortars and pamphlets calling on people not to participate in elections were seized.

Friday sermon slams previous week's mosque storming- Al-Sharqiyah

Al-Sharqiyah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic, 27 Nov 04: The imam of Abu-Hanifah al-Nu'man Mosque, Shaykh Mu'ayyad al-A'zami, on 26 November condemned the storming of a mosque last Friday, which resulted in the death of three and the wounding of nine worshippers, Al-Sharqiyah TV reported. The station said Al-A'zami stressed that a mosque was not a military building, weapons warehouse or place to hide weapons of mass destruction and wondered why the mosque was raided four times when each search turned up nothing. He also called for Iraqis to "exercise prudence and rationality" for the sake of maintaining the country's unity and working for its reform.

US ambassador tours Fallujah- Al-Sharqiyah

Al-Sharqiyah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic, 27 Nov 04: US Ambassador John Negroponte made a surprise visit to a US military base in Al-Fallujah on 27 November and toured the city's streets in the highest-level visit to the city since the US-led offensive on it, He told a news conference that the "entire thrust of the American effort is to support the government of Iraq in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the city of Fallujah" and added
that the US would do everything possible to create the conditions to enable everyone to take part in the country's elections.

**Shi'i authority threatens "unprecedented" action if election delayed- Al-Diyar TV**

**Al-Diyar Satellite Channel In Arabic, Baghdad, 27 Nov 04**: Iraq's Shi'i religious authority in Al-Najaf on 27 November threatened to take "unprecedented" action if elections in Iraq were postponed, Al-Diyar TV reported. The station cited a statement issued by the Al-Najaf ulema saying that the authority could not accept a postponement under any circumstances and would issue a fatwa banning support for the government if the elections were postponed.

**Party leader Al-Pachachi clarifies postponement demand- Al-Sharqiyah**

**Al-Sharqiyah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic, 27 Nov 04**: Iraqi Independent Democrats Grouping leader Adnan al-Pachachi said on 27 November that the parties asking for the elections to be postponed had merely issued a statement asking for its consideration. He said they had not signed a document demanding the postponement of the elections. He said the parties decided to ask for the postponement so wider sectors of the Iraqi people and political forces, who showed initial reservations about taking part, could be included. He said the extra time would also allow for an improvement in the security situation.

**INC says postponement would create "constitutional problem"- Voice of the Mujahidin**

**SCIRI's Voice of the Mujahidin in Arabic, 27 Nov 04**: A spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress, Intifad Qanbar, was quoted on Shi'i radio station Voice of the Mujahidin on 27 November saying that any postponement of the country's elections would "create a constitutional problem" and would result in further deterioration in the security conditions. He said this was because Iraq would not have an elected government unless the elections were held, and only an elected government would have the right to discuss the withdrawal of the US forces from Iraq.

**Allawi to meet opposition figures in Amman- Al-Sharqiyah**

**Al-Sharqiyah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic, 27 Nov 04**: Prime Minister Iyad Allawi is to travel to Amman, Jordan, to meet opposition figures living overseas, Al-Sharqiyah TV reported on 27 November. AFP news agency cited government spokesman Tha'ir al-Naqib saying the aim of the meeting was to "find common ground and explain the political process in Iraq". AFP said Al-Naqib did not specify a date for the meeting.
Iraqi imams urge people to vote, denounce terrorism- Voice of the Mujahidin

**SCIRI’s Voice of the Mujahidin in Arabic, 27 Nov 04:** SCIRI’s Voice of the Mujahidin radio on 26 November reported that Friday prayers in most Iraqi cities had spoken of the importance for Iraqi unity and preparations for participation in the forthcoming elections. The station said Baghdad’s Al-Kazimiyah mosque imam urged all worshippers to participate in the elections saying they were a legitimate right for all Iraqis and a national duty every Iraqi Muslim should take part in. The Burathah mosque imam spoke on the importance of eliminating terrorist actions that undermined stability and security on the highways, adding that killings and robbery at holy places caused sectarian friction between the people of Iraq. The station said Friday sermons this week unanimously called for renouncing violence and terrorism and urged the Iraqi government to enforce security and eliminate anything that may undermine the daily life of the Iraqi citizen. They also urged officials to unite in resurrecting "the wounded Iraq".

Iraqi National Guard arrests six in Mosul- Voice of the Mujahidin

**SCIRI’s Voice of the Mujahidin in Arabic, 27 Nov 04:** National Guard forces have arrested six "leading terrorists" during raids in the Al-Shirqat area of Mosul, Iraqi Shi'i group's Iran-based radio station Voice of the Mujahidin reported. Those detained had in their possession weapons, explosives and fake identity cards, it said.

US forces tell foreign fighters to leave Al-Ramadi or face death

**Radio Dijla, Baghdad, in Arabic 27 Nov 04:** Multinational forces on 27 Nov announced that they control the Al-Latifiyah area, 35 km south of Baghdad, Iraqi Radio Dijlah reported. They also called on foreign fighters in Al-Ramadi to return to their countries or face death or arrest. A call to this effect was included in a statement that was distributed in the city. The statement called on the city's residents to cooperate with the multinational forces, and to report on the gunmen's whereabouts.

**IRAQI BROADCAST MEDIA SUMMARIES, 27 Nov 04**

Programme Summary of Al-Iraqiyah TV News 27 Nov 04

- Spokesman for Prime Minister Iyad Allawi says interim government committed to election date. Video report covers his comments.
• Independent Higher Commission for Elections in Iraq says it has not received demand for election delay. Video report covers comments by commission spokesman, delay plea made by several political groups, comments by member of interim National Assembly, Adnan al-Pachachi, Iraqis reaction.
• Preparations for polls under-way. Video report highlights steps taken by commission ahead of polls, expatriates registered to vote.
• Recorded interview with deputy minister of foreign affairs, Hamid al-Bayati. He says expatriates voting to be conducted with fairness.
• Member of interim National Assembly Muhammad Husayn al-Hakim says election delay not acceptable by Iraqis; several political parties refuse postponement. Video report covers political meeting rejecting delay, comments by opposition politicians.
• Iraqis in Al-Najaf support holding election on time. Video report highlights comments by Iraqis against election delay.
• US ambassador in Iraq says from Al-Fallujah security situation no obstacle to election.
• National Guard holds terror suspects in Al-Durrah. Video report covers blasts in Baghdad, arrest of people involved in making car bombs, gunmen held in Al-Latifiyah.
• De-Ba'athification official says National Guard and police infiltrated by terrorists sympathisers.
• Basra police seize stolen cables, arrests offenders. Video report covers security operation.
• Fire at Al-Kut market causes extensive damage. Video report covers aftermath.
• Palestinian VIP protection force dismantled; activist Marwan al-Barguthi calls on Fatah to support Mahmud Abbas in forthcoming presidential election. Video report
• Head of US Central Command Lieutenant General John Abizaid calls on international community to stand firmly against extremism. Video report
• Opposition still surrounding government offices in Ukraine. Video report
• American President George Bush hopeful for end to Ukraine stand-off. Video report
• Ex-American soldier serves prison sentence passed against him for refusing military service during Vietnam War. Video report

Programme Summary of Iraqi Islamic Party Dar al-Salam radio, 27 Nov 04

• The head of the Iraqi Independent Electoral Commission says the commission is studying a request from a number of Iraqi parties to postpone the elections...
• Clashes erupted between armed men and Iraqi policemen in Al-Khalis area last night, and armed groups take control of the city's main streets...
• A US military spokesman says that one US soldier was killed in an explosion in northern Baghdad this morning...
• An explosion kills two US soldiers and destroys a US military vehicle near the city of Al-Fallujah and US and British forces are conducting a search campaign in southern Baghdad...
• The Iraqi Red Crescent Society describes the situation in the city of Al-Fallujah as "an unprecedented humanitarian disaster." A correspondent reports on the situation in the city...
• The head of the Iraqi Sunni Waqf Department urges the United Nations, the Arab League, and the Islamic organizations to press the US forces not to storm mosques.

IRAQI PRESS QOUTES, 27 Nov 04

Iraqi paper criticize Iraqi forces that came along with the occupation forces- Al-Dustur

Al - Dustur, independent daily published by former journalist Basim al-Sheikh, An editorial, 27 Nov 04:

The newspaper publishes on a front page by Chief Editor Basim al-Shaykh criticizing a number of Iraqi political forces which came along with the occupation forces, for spreading the word that their list, which was prepared in accordance with the sectarian proportional power sharing system, will win the majority of votes in the upcoming elections and that the seats of the next national assembly have already been distributed among them. Al-Shaykh adds that they should not mistakenly think that they should have extra privileges because they contributed to the liberation of Iraq, because "the Iraqis did not ask or mandate them to liberate them from the tyrants to place them at the mercy of the invaders."

Elections and security - Al-Ufuq

Iraqi newspaper Al-Ufuq on 27 November publishes on the front page a 100-word report citing an official source at an electoral centre in Al-Najaf, who requested anonymity for security reasons, warning Al-Najaf citizens that an unidentified group claiming to be members of Ayatollah Al-Sistani's bureau are taking and destroying their electoral registration forms in order to deprive them from participating in the upcoming elections. It also publishes on the front page a 200-word editorial criticizing the closed list system adopted by the Independent Higher Commission for Elections in Iraq. The editorial says that most Iraqis believe that the upcoming elections are to elect a president rather than a national assembly. Al-Ufuq publishes on page 4 a 500-word unattributed report outlining the election mechanism in Iraq.
A poll, surveying people's opinions on the upcoming Iraqi elections- Al-Mashriq

**Al-Mashriq [Baghdad, by Al- Mashriq Institution for media and cultural investments]27 Nov:** The newspaper runs on page a report on a poll carried out by Al-Mashriq Poll Centre, surveying people's opinions on the upcoming Iraqi elections. The report gives the following results: 74 per cent want the elections to be conducted as scheduled, 78 per cent think there is nothing to be gained by delaying the elections, 56 per cent think that delaying the elections will not lead to more accurate results, 56 per cent believe that political parties will win the elections, and 72 per cent believe that non-religious candidates will win the elections.

**Kurdish News, 27 Nov 04**

Police officer killed, three guards wounded at checkpoint gunfight- KurdSat TV

**(KurdSat TV 27 Nov 04):** A police officer was killed and three National Guards wounded when a number of unidentified gunmen attacked a checkpoint on the Kirkuk-Tikrit road, KurdSat TV reported on 27 November.

One killed, one wounded in attack on police station- KurdSat TV

**(KurdSat TV 27 Nov 04):** One gunman was killed and another wounded when they attacked a police unit in the Wahid Huzayran District, KurdSat TV reported on 27 November.

Kurd magazine vows to avenge killed Kurdish National Guards: Kurdistan magazine

**(Govari Gulan, Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) magazine 27 Nov):** published an article warning that the Kurds would not forgive "the spilt blood of their sons" and would "answer back for each drop of blood of their sons". The article referred particularly to Kurdish National Guards who were beheaded in Mosul and those killed in Kirkuk.

***

NB: This is not an official document. The information contained therein was compiled by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, Information Office. If you have any questions/suggestions, please contact us at (+ 962 550 -4631/4703 or Cell. + 962 77 619 731 jarrar@un.org or alsokhni@un.org