Police reportedly find bodies of Arab fighters in Mosul hospital- Iraq for All News
Group threatens Iraqi Communist Party- Jihadist web site
Iraq minister: Cabinet “most probably” to approve election delay- Al-Sharqiyyah TV
Iraqi National Guard arrested a gang responsible for trapping cars in Baghdad- Al-Dustur
Iraqi, multinational forces keep a tight siege around the Al-Mahmudiyyah- Al-Bayan
100 gunmen attacked police and National Guard headquarters in Al-Khalis city- Al-Zaman
Allawi is not convinced the idea of postponing the upcoming elections- Al-Dustur
Planning Ministry prepared a list of strategic projects in Iraq up to 2007- Al-Ufuq

Programme summary of Al-Iraqiyah TV news 28 Nov 04
Programme summary of Iraq’s Al-Diyar TV news 28 Nov 04
Programme summary of Iraqi Islamic Party Dar al-Salam Radio news 28 Nov

IRAQI PRESS COMMENTS, 28 NOVEMBER 2004
• “Iraqi opposition for the former regime was active all over the world”- Al-Bayan
• Arab satellite channels and former President Saddam's Trial - Al-Bayan
• The difference between current occupation of Iraq and last century’s British occupation- Al-Mu'tamar
• “Bad legacy” former regime left to Iraqis, “CORRUPTION.”- Tartiq al-Sha'eb
• "Let's Think of the Country First.”- Al-Mashriq

**KURDISH NEWS, 28 NOV 04**

• Association of Muslim Scholars figure accuses Kurdish leader of Saddam links
• Kirkuk considering second university
• Barzani backs January election schedule

**IRAQI NEWS 28 Nov 2004**

Police reportedly find bodies of Arab fighters in Mosul hospital- Iraq for All News

(Iraq For All News Network web site 28 Nov 2004): Police forces in Mosul said they found bodies of "Arab fighters" in one of the city's hospitals, Iraq for All News Network web site reported on 28 November. Brig-Gen Rashid Fulayyih, commander of the special Iraqi unit sent to Mosul told reporters that police found in Al-Zahhawi hospital bodies of gunmen who had previously taken control of the hospital.

Group threatens Iraqi Communist Party- Jihadist web site

(Jihadist web site www.alezah.com 28 Nov 04): A statement posted on an Islamist web site on 28 November and addressed to "the apostate candidates of the Iraqi Communist Party," threatened to annihilate the party's members, "one by one". The statement on the Al-Izah forum at www.alezah.com was allegedly issued by the Mujahidin of the Iraqi Peninsula in the Zab and Al-Huwayjah regions. It said: "We are not asking you to withdraw from the elections. Whether you withdraw or not, your end, God permitting, is near because we know who among you are elected as candidates to lead your clear unbelief. We shall annihilate you, one by one, and we will make your names public in the next few days."

Iraq minister: Cabinet "most probably" to approve election delay- Al-Sharqiyah TV

Al-Sharqiyah Satellite Channel, Baghdad, in Arabic, 28 Nov 04: Iraq minister: Cabinet "most probably" to approve election delayText of announcer-read report by Iraqi Al-Sharqiyah TV on 28 November Mahdi al-
Hafiz, member of the Iraqi Independent Democrats Grouping led by Adnan al-Pachachi, has said today that the interim Iraqi government will study during the coming days the issue of postponing the elections, [a demand] rejected by Islamic and Turkoman parties. Minister of Planning Mahdi al-Hafiz said that the council of ministers would convene during the coming days to study the issue of postponing the elections and will, most probably, approve it. He explained that if the decision [to postpone] was taken, it will be referred to the interim Iraqi National Assembly for consultation and to the Iraqi Presidency, to be later on presented to the United Nations. Al-Hafiz’s statements came at the same time that the National Assembly issued a statement today approving holding the elections at the assigned date of 30 January [2005].

**Iraqi National Guard arrested a gang responsible for trapping cars in Baghdad- Al-Dustur**

*Al-Dustur newspaper published a report, 28 Nov 2004*, citing an official source at the Defence Ministry as saying that the Iraqi National Guard arrested a gang responsible for trapping cars in Baghdad. The source added that it was based in the Yas Mosque in Al-Durah district where seven booby-trapped cars, a large quantity of weapons, and flyers calling for boycotting the upcoming elections were seized.

**Iraqi, multinational forces keep a tight siege around the Al-Mahmudiyyah- Al-Bayan**

*Al-Bayan published a report, 28 Nov 04*: citing eyewitnesses as saying that the Iraqi National Guard and multinational forces have been keeping a tight siege around the Al-Mahmudiyyah district, 20 km south of Baghdad, since Saturday morning. They added that the forces have begun an intensive searching campaign for weapons and insurgents in the city. The report says that most of the state offices and schools in the district have been closed recently due to the insurgents’ threats.

**100 gunmen attacked police and National Guard headquarters in Al-Khalis city- Al-Zaman**

*Al-Zaman newspaper on 28 November* reported on a statement by Deputy Diyalah Governor Ghassan al-Khadran noting that 100 gunmen attacked the police and National Guard headquarters in Al-Khalis city. Al-Khadran says the police and National Guard battled the gunmen and then pursued them. Al-Khadran adds that the clashes lightly injured one policeman.

**Allawi is not convinced the idea of postponing the upcoming elections- Al-Dustur**

*Al-Dustur newspaper published a report, 28 Nov 2004* citing Tha’ir al-Naqib, a spokesman for Prime Minister Allawi, as saying that Allawi is not convinced in the idea of postponing the upcoming elections. In a news
conference on 27th, Al-Naqib responded to the earlier statement made by more than 40 Iraqi parties calling for postponing the elections for six months by saying that Allawi is determent to hold them on schedule. In a statement, the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq affirmed its readiness to hold the upcoming elections throughout the country as scheduled. Farid Ayar, the spokesman for the Commission, said that his commission has not, so far received any official request from the registered entities to postpone the elections, adding that the number of the endorsed entities reached 217 up to 25 November.

Planning Ministry prepared a list of strategic projects in Iraq up to 2007- Al-Ufuq

Al-Ufuq published a report on 28 November 04 citing an official source at the Planning Ministry as saying that his ministry prepared a list of the strategic projects to be implemented in Iraq up to 2007. The source added that the list includes 700 projects and costs 30bn dollars, adding that 51 per cent of their finance will be covered by the Iraqi oil sale revenue and 49 per cent by donor countries.

IRAQI BROADCAST MEDIA SUMMARIES, 28 Nov 04

Programme summary of Al-Iraqiyah TV news 28 Nov 04

- National Guard arrests 42 gunmen in south Baghdad with several injured in fighting. Commander of National Guard in Al-Ramadi escapes assassination attempt.
- Three injured, including policeman, in attack on police station in Ba'qubah. Video report covers violence across Iraq.
- Humanitarian aid sent from Tikrit to Al-Fallujah. Video report
- Basra police seize drugs in Al-Zubayr; gang arrested. Video report covers operation, drugs allegedly smuggled from Iran.
- New graduation ceremony at Karbala police academy. Video report
- 6. 0739 Spokesman for independent electoral commission says over 226 political groups approved. Video report covers controversy over plea to delay election, some parties rule out delay, commission ruling out delay.
- 7. 0924 Iraqis call for holding election on time. Video report highlights public reaction.
- Students in Al-Muthanna hope election can be held on time--opinion poll. Video report
- Ministry of Oil denies rumours about fuel shortage in Baghdad. Video report shows long queues in front of petrol stations, people complaining of shortage.
- Minister of Agriculture announces purchase of crop-spraying planes. Video report
- Security, election, unemployment main concerns of university students. Video report
- Basra nursery schools apply modern techniques of teaching. Video report
• Iraqis on welfare in Al-Muthanna call for social benefit increases. Video report
• Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, PLO chief Mahmud Abbas willing to meet. Video report
• Nuclear talks between Iran and EU halted. Video report
• Ukraine opposition gives up protest outside government offices.
• French President and head of Francophone organisation concerned over Ivory Coast crisis. Video report
• Business bulletin. Minister of planning says debt burden not responsibility of Iraqis. Oil pipeline in south attacked. Iraq share market report.

Programme summary of Iraq's Al-Diyar TV news 28 Nov 04

• Announcer-read report: Iraqi police says a bomb exploded on the airport road today while an American envoy was passing. Iraqi police arrests suspected suicide bomber near Baghdad University. Reuters says three bodyguards of the youths and sports minister were wounded in an attack today. It is not known if the minister was in the convoy. (2 min)
• Announcer-read report: The Iraqi government, through the official spokesman, says it is determined to hold the elections on 30 January as schedule. Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih says he hopes the election will be held as schedule, but if this does not happen it will not be the end of the world. (2 min)
• Video report: Baghdad City Council calls on the electoral commission to set a mechanism for the participation of the detainees in the elections. (und min; video shows prison)
• Video interview: The minister of state for civil society affairs says civil society organizations will play the role of watchdog in the election. He stresses the importance of this role and urges the civil society organizations to play it actively. (2 min)
• Announcer-read report: The National Guard says it arrested a network specialized in rigging cars south of Baghdad. It says seven booby-trapped cars and a big amount of weapons were seized in the possession of the members of the network. Iraqi police arrests 19 armed men in Al-Nasiriya. (2 min)
• Announcer-read report: The Housing Ministry sets up a committee to assess the damage in Al-Fallujah and draft reconstruction plans. The Health Ministry sends two trucks loaded with medicine to Al-Saqlawiyah to help the refugees from Al-Fallujah.
• Video report on relief material sent from the people of Karbala to Al-Fallujah refugees. (2 min)
• Announcer-read report: An Interior Ministry source says a group of Iraqis and Iranians was arrested while it was trying to smuggle objects stolen from Iraqi museums. (und min)
• Video report: An unknown armed group bombs the oil pipeline in Al-Musayyib district, which resulted in power outage and columns of black smoke. (1 min; video shows fire and smoke)
• Al-Diyar correspondent in Diyala reports that mortar rounds were fired at a police station in Ba‘qubah, leading to the injury of two policemen and one old woman.
• Announcer-read report: The Health Ministry is considering modernization of nursing courses at universities.
• Video interview: The health minister says the employees who were dismissed for political reasons will return to their jobs.
• Announcer-read report: The Education Ministry sets up specialized committees to implement the accelerated education project.
• Announcer-read report: A conference on child rights will be held in Baghdad Tuesday.

Programme summary of Iraqi Islamic Party Dar al-Salam Radio news 28 Nov

• The spokesman for the prime minister says the government is determined to hold elections on schedule, and the religious authorities in Al-Najaf reject any delay in holding elections. (1 min)
• The Iraqi Islamic Party’s secretary general calls for postponing the election.
• A spokesman for the US forces in Iraq says that two US military vehicles were destroyed in an explosion on the Baghdad highway this morning.
• Clashes took place in Baghdad yesterday, and two US soldiers are killed in the city of Al-Fallujah.
• The Iraqi Red Crescent Society describes the situation in the city of Al-Fallujah as “a humanitarian disaster.
• British organizations’ alliance calls for withdrawing British forces from Iraq.
• Indonesians take to the streets to protest the US military operations against the Iraqi city of Al-Fallujah.
• A Palestinian source says that Mahmud Abbas, Rawhi Fattuh, and Ahmad Quray are due to meet the Egyptian president in Cairo today.
• Iran insists on excluding centrifuge equipment from an agreement to stop uranium enrichment.
• The Ukrainian parliament cancels the second round of the presidential election, and demonstrations continue in Kiev.

Iraqi Press Comments, 28 November 2004

“Iraqi opposition for the former regime was active all over the world”- Al-Bayan

Al-Bayan newspaper on 28 November published a commentary discussing the Iraqi opposition in the wake of the Sharm al-Shaykh conference on Iraq. The writer says that the Iraqi opposition for the former regime was active all over the world, however, no Arab or international leader or a country recognized or sympathized with it as is the case now. He maintains that the role of opposition in democracy is undeniable; however, lootings, kidnappings, murder of security forces and people, and booby-trapped cars cannot be called an opposition.

Arab satellite channels and former President Saddam’s Trial - Al-Bayan

Al-Bayan newspaper on 28 November published a commentary criticizing those who appear on Arab satellite channels alleging that the trial
of the former President Saddam Husayn and his aides is illegitimate. The commentary wonders whether they were aware of how many Iraqi victims were killed by Saddam and his aides even without trial in Iraq.

The difference between current occupation of Iraq and last century's British occupation - Al-Mu'tamar

Al-Mu'tamar newspaper published an article on 28 November comparing between Prime Minister Allawi and Abd-al-Muhsin al-Sa'dun, a former Iraqi prime minister under the British mandate over Iraq, who committed suicide due to his failure to cope with the pressure of the British Government from one side and the Iraqis from the other. The article also discusses the difference between the current US occupation of Iraq and the last century's British occupation.

"Bad legacy" former regime left to Iraqis, "CORRUPTION."- Tartiq al-Sha'b

Tartiq al-Sha'b newspaper on 28 November carried an article criticizing the "bad legacy" that the former regime left to Iraqis, namely, "corruption." The writer praises the formation of the "Supreme Integrity Commission," which she says "meets the current needs of the country."

"Let's Think of the Country First."- Al-Mashriq

Al-Mashriq newspaper on 28 November published an article entitled "Let's Think of the Country First." The writer comments on the "deficiency in our consciousness and practices towards our country." He says that it is the "conciliation with the country that produces democracy, and not vice versa."

Kurdish News, 28 Nov 04

Association of Muslim Scholars figure accuses Kurdish leader of Saddam links

(Al-Hayat web site 28 Nov 04): Abd-al-Salam al-Kubaysi, a senior figure in the Association of Muslim Scholars (AMS) has criticized Kurdish leaders Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani and accused Barzani of collaborating with Saddam Husayn against the Kurds, London-based newspaper Al-Hayat reported on 28 November. In a statement to Al-Hayat, Al-Kubaysi said: "Talabani is a prevaricator and Barzani used Saddam's help to strike at the Kurds in Al-Sulaymaniyyah". He challenged the two men "to reveal their own records".

Al-Kubaysi also said the AMS had turned down a Jordanian request to host a Sunni Iraqi conference in Amman.
Kirkuk considering second university

(Hawal, Al-Sulaymaniyah 28 Nov 04): The governor of Kirkuk, Abd-al-Rahman Mustafa told reporters that the construction of a university at the cost of 28m dollars is on the agenda for the city of Kirkuk, biweekly independent Kurdish newspaper Hawal reported on 28 November. The paper noted that a university was opened in Kirkuk "several years ago but was neglected by the Ba'th regime and has thus remained a backward university".

Barzani backs January election schedule

(Kurdistan Satellite TV, 28 Nov 04): The leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), Mas'ud Barzani, met Prime Minister Iyad Allawi in Arbil where the two expressed their support for holding general elections in January, Kurdistan satellite TV reported on 28 November. Barzani however said that "if the Kirkuk question is not settled by then", the people of Kirkuk would not take part in the elections of the governorate councils. "It is absolutely clear, Kirkuk will take part in the general elections of Iraqi parliament. However on the elections of the governorate councils, our stance is very clear, it should be carried out in a later date," Barzani said.

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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