

Iraqi Kurdistan News in brief

Political

Yazidi Kurds' mass grave found in western Mosul

Source: NRT TV

1st of Jun 2015

Nineveh – Erbil: Bodies of 80 Yazidi Kurds was found in mass grave in western part of the Iraqi northern city of Mosul, official said. The official to follow Yazidi affairs in Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), Hadi Dobani, told NRT that 80 Yazidi bodies, including 33 children and 20 women, were found in Badosh, western Mosul. He told NRT that the bodies might have been buried by the militants of the Islamic State (IS) during its attack onto the region in August 2014. Dobani said findings showed torture on parts of the body and gun shots in the heads of the victims. It is further to mention that more than 11 mass graves have been found in the region after retaking there from the control of IS.

Kurdistan receives Iraq's Anbar refugees through air and land

Source: Hawler newspaper

1st of Jun 2015

Erbil: Baghdad Airport released a statement reading that Iraqi airways transported displaced Anbar people to Kurdistan region airports free of charge. Meanwhile, the regional Office of the Ministry of Displacement and Migration announced on Sunday that the Kurdistan capital city of Erbil receives daily about 500 displaced families coming from Baghdad by air. This figure was announced by Aliah Bazzaz, Director of the Regional Office of the Ministry of Displacement and Migration in the Iraqi Kurdistan region and gave this statement to Hawler newspaper.

Braham Salih: "Motto would not realize Kurdish independence"

Source: PUKMEDIA

2nd of June, 2015

Slemani: The deputy leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), former Kurdistan PM, Braham Salih, asked for close ties between parties in Kurdistan Region and solving intra-PUK tensions and stressed the Kurdish region's independence is impossible with motto. Addressing the PUK leading council's meeting on June 1, Salih stressed on unity among Iraqi Kurdish parties

and resuming ties between the PUK and Change Movement (Gorran). The PUK leader called the 20th century the century of disasters for Kurds and reiterated that the present century should bring fundamental and big changes in the political and security principles of the last century. Referring to the Kurdish region's bid to declare its independence from Iraq, the PUK deputy leader later added it is the right on each group and people to decide their fate but it needs political accord among all Kurdish lines and unity between them.

Source: Payam TV

2nd of Jun, 2015

Kurdistan Islamic Group reelected Al Bapir as the head of group

Erbil: Ali Bapir has been reelected as the leader of the Kurdistan Islamic Group party and he is about to choose his deputy without election within his party. Paywand Omar, spokesperson of Kurdistan Islamic Group party, told Payam TV that during the third congress of the party the members of the party re-elected Bapir for another round to lead the group and they authorized him to pick a deputy without any intervene. The spokesperson of Kurdistan Islamic Group party also added "15 senior members of the Kurdistan Islamic Group party including members of the founding committee had boycotted the congress for not approving the current policy of the party.

Erbil warns to halt oil export through Baghdad: spokesman

Source: Zagros TV

2nd of June, 2015

Erbil: Spokesman of Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Safin Dizayee warned in a statement that it is very likely for the Kurdish region to halt its oil export through Baghdad if the Iraqi central government decreases or halts sending the region's share of budget. Dizayee told Zagros TV that the region would decide on its oil export through Baghdad at the end of this month when the central government is to send the region's 17 percent share of the national budget. Dizayee added that the region has acted within its oil deal with the central government, warning that Erbil would take other measures if Baghdad continues to decrease the region's share of the budget as it did in the previous months. It is worth mentioning that Iraqi PM Haider al-Abadi told days ago that Baghdad won't send the region's budget according to the deal signed between the two sides but based on the amount of Iraq's exported oil.

Islamic State trading human body organs in Iraq

Source: KDPinfo

4th of June, 2015

Nineveh – Erbil: The Islamic State group (IS) is trafficking and selling the body parts of those killed in the battlefield in return for high prices at a hospital in Mosul, northern Iraq, to overcome its growing financial problems.” Saied Mamuzini, a member of Iraqi Kurdistan’s Democrat Party, told reporters on Monday. He noted that the IS has turned a palace of executed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein into a special hospital for buying and selling human body organs. Mamuzini said the IS jihadists purchase body organs at very cheap prices and sell them at very high prices to make a lot of money. He stressed that he has compelling evidence which shows that the (IS) is smuggling body organs to other countries, but he declined to disclose the names of those countries. Further to mention that (IS) is taking different ways in order to finance their group for example In February, sources said that (IS) seeks to deliver the bodies of Kurdish fighters killed in battles in exchange for cash “ranging between 10 thousand and 20 thousand dollars per body.

Iraqi government do not allocate any share of weapons to Kurdish Peshmerga: A senior security official

Source: millet press (referring to a Japanese news paper)

4th of June, 2015

Slemani: Lahur Sheikh Jangi, the head of the Kurdistan Regional Government’s intelligence service and Prominent PUK Official, stated that Iraqi Federal Government denies Kurdish Peshmerga Forces from any weapons and called the international community to help the Kurdish forces in its fighting against the Islamic State group (IS). Sheikh Jangi said in an interview with the Japanese newspaper Tokyo: The Kurdish anti-terrorism forces and the Peshmerga forces succeeded in stopping the tide carried out by IS Insurgents, and caused them heavy casualties. He also noted that a large number of refugees living now in the Kurdistan Region as a result of the deteriorating security situation and the control their areas by IS, and Sheikh Jangi said Since the fall of Mosul more than 1.5 million refugees flee to Kurdistan. Regarding the internal security Jangi said that they had arrested a number of supporters of IS in the Kurdish cities. Jangi warned against the danger of IS Sleeper cell on the territory of Kurdistan, stressing that the anti-terrorism forces working day and night on this matter and find those who are trying to work for IS or assist them or trying to destabilize the situation in Kurdistan.

Iraqi Kurdistan government sends a message to international community on IDPs and Refugees issues.

Source: KRGs official web site

5th of June, 2015

Erbil: In a statement Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government values and appreciates all UN and International agencies programs in support and aiding more than 1.5 Million IDPs and Refugees in Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Kurdistan Regional Government thanks and calls International and Donor countries to continue in supporting and providing more financial and aid support to IDPs and Refugees within the launch of the revised Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Iraq, on the 4th June which is co-hosted in Brussels by the UN and the European Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO). Meanwhile (KRG) stressed that the humanitarian needs are dramatically increasing because of new flow of IDPs fleeing to the Kurdistan Region and other areas. The statement include also "Here, we bring the attention of the international community to the unstable and dangerous situation that the IDPs, Refugees and communities may face if further aid and support are not continuously provided".

British consul: Kurds better to negotiate with Baghdad over independence

Source: Awena newspaper

6th of June, 2015

Erbil: The British Consul to Iraqi Kurdistan said that the Kurds are better not to declare independence from Baghdad in a unilateral move but to negotiate with the central government over their independence. Ankes Maki told Awena News paper that Iraqi Kurds are better to negotiate with Baghdad for their independency. He further asked Kurds to remain committed to their agreement with Baghdad despite disputes over oil export, budget and incomes. The British official went on to say that many international companies are eager to invest in a region where law is ruling and there are legal and equal opportunities for all.

Dozens of corruption scandals under investigation in Iraqi Kurdistan

Source: Xebat newspaper

6th of June, 2015

Erbil: In a statement the commission of integrity in Kurdistan region released that they are in ongoing investigations on corruption cases. The commission announced that dozens of corruption cases from Erbil, Duhok and Sulemaina are currently under investigation by them. It

has been mentioned in the statement that the commission of is working in collaboration with UNDP aiming to eliminate corruption in Kurdistan region and bring those involved to justice.

New Governor has been appointed in Halabja

Source: Kurdistani nwe newspaper

6th of June, 2015

Halabja: Following the agreement between PUK, Gorran (Change Movement), and service list (Islamic Union and Islamic Group) parties to share the posts of Slemani and Halabja Governorate, new Halabja governor appointed on Thursday. Abdulla Nawrole from Gorran Party, Ali Osman from PUK and Kawa Ali from Islamic union appointed as governor and Deputy Governors of Halabja city. Halabja Mayor which was run by PUK for years was given to Gorran Movement. Activists considered this as an important democratic step and goodwill from PUK. The new governor and his deputies will commence their work next week at an official ceremony next week among government officials and consulates of several countries. It is further to mentioned that KRG declared Halabja as the 4th governorate in Kurdistan region this year.

Massoud Barzani during receiving the newly appointed counsel of Kuwait” Kurdistan will not become a part of the ongoing sectarian conflict in the region”

Source: the official web site of Kurdistan presidency. (KRP.org)

6th of June, 2015

Erbil: The President of Kurdistan region, Massoud Barzani expressed on Saturday, being delighted for opening the Kuwaiti consulate in the Kurdish region, as he highlighted the risks and threats posed by Islamic State militants to the region and the world, Barzani said people of Kurdistan will not become a part of the ongoing sectarian conflict in the region. A statement by the presidency of Kurdistan said Barzani welcomed the Kuwaiti Consul Omar Ahmed Al-Kandari in Erbil. It is further to mention that there are more than 30 different representatives of different countries in Kurdistan region.

Nechirvan Barzani: If Baghdad doesn't send Kurdistan's share of Iraqi budget, we will look for other solutions

Source: Hawler news paper

6th of June, 2015

In a visit to Duhok city for the propose of participating in the opening ceremony of the new stadium in city of Zakho, Kurdistan PM Nechirvan Barzani stressed on Thursday that Kurdistan Regional government KRG has always sought to resolve the outstanding problems between Baghdad and Erbil through dialogue and understanding, and he “reiterated the Kurdistan region’s commitment to the terms of the oil accord with Baghdad.

A group defrauded displaced Arabs arrested in Kurdistan

Source: the official website of Erbil police

6th of June, 2015

Erbil: Police Directorate in Kurdistan capital city of Erbil announced on Thursday that they arrested a group whom they are defrauded displaced Arab citizens in the name of security forces (Asayish) and took money and mobile phones from them. In a press conference held by the police chief in Erbil” Abdul Khaliq Talat” after the arrest of mastermind person, he mentioned that a group of six people defrauded about 20 Arab citizens of displaced people by stopping them in the street and going to their homes, demanding them for official documents and took their possession but fortunately we have been able to arrest them.

Iraqi officials gathered for Sulaimaniyah Platform meeting

Source: Sulaimaniyah news network

7th of June, 2015

Slemani: Officials from Iraq’s 19 governorates convened in the Kurdish city of Slemani (Sulaimaniyah in Kurdish) on Sunday for a two-day conference to discuss strengthening ties among the country’s deferent governorates. The Sulaimaniyah Platform is the first conference of its kind, the delegates are expected to discuss political, economic and tourism issues beside different other issues.

Nechirvan Barzani decries Baghdad government failure to pay Kurdistan

Source: Rudaw media network

7th of June, 2015

Slemani: Kurdistan PM Nechirvan Barzani warned on Sunday of the “continued violation of the Iraqi constitution” by Baghdad, and accused the central Iraqi government of pressuring the Kurdistan region. Speaking at a platform in Sulaimaniyah, Barzani said Baghdad’s decision to cut the Kurdistan Regional Government’s (KRG) budget “had put the people of Kurdistan in

economic misery,” which “would not be tolerated anymore.” “We value the wellbeing of all Iraqi people, but we won’t tolerate the kind of deprivation and misery that is inflicted on the people of the Kurdistan region,” Barzani told delegates representing Iraq’s different provinces. Barzani said the KRG had “fully” committed to the budget agreement between Erbil and Baghdad signed in December last year, but that Iraqi PM Haider al-Abadi’s government “had not lived up” to the terms of the same agreement. He added also that Abadi’s government had not delivered its part of the deal despite the fact that the KRG had increased its oil output in a record time to meet the agreement. “Unfortunately Mr. Abadi cut another 10 percent of April’s payment of the already reduced budget,” Barzani said describing the cut as “very dangerous,” which is against the “principle of agreement and alliance.”

Security

Islamic State (IS) launches attack on Kurdish Peshmerga outside Mosul

Source: REGA TV

1st of Jun 2015

Baishiqa: Islamic State (IS) militants on Sunday launched an attack on Kurdish forces in the town of Baishiqa, near Mosul. A Peshmerga commander Lashkir Khurani told REGA TV that IS attacked Peshmerga forces from three directions at dawn. Kurdish forces have been able to defeat the attacks after an hour and a half of fighting. According to commander Lashkir Khurani IS lost at least five of their members and there are no casualties among Peshmerga forces. Baishiqa or (Bashik in Kurdish) is located 25 kilometers northeast of Mosul’s city center. The residents are a mix of Yazidi, Shabak Kurds as well as Assyrians and Muslim Arabs.

Kurdish Islamist party’s headquarters exposed to an armed attack in Tuz Khurmatu

Source: Basnews.com

2nd of June, 2015

Tuz Khurmatu: The headquarters of the Kurdish Islamist group in Tuz Khurmatu district in Salahaddin province was exposed on Tuesday, to an armed attack by bombs and automatic weapons. A security source said that the headquarters of the Islamic group was attacked by unidentified gunmen, adding that the attackers threw hand grenades then opened fires shots directed towards the headquarters. He added that the building’s guards responded to the attackers, noting that the attackers were forced to flee. He said that the attack did not result in any loss in lives. Tuz Khurmatu district is witnessing political conflicts between the forces that represent the three main components in the city; Kurds, Arabs and Turkmen and that reflected

on the security situation. It is further to mentioned that Tuz Khurmatu is one of the disputed areas between Baghdad and Erbil, and is covered by article 140 of the constitution.

Islamic State launches attack on Peshmerga in western Sinjar

3rd of Jun, 2015

Source: Xendan.org

Sinjar : Islamic State (IS) launched an attack on Peshmerga in western Sinjar (Shingal in Kurdish), a Peshmerga commander said on Tuesday. Brigadier General Ezadin Saadun told Xendan that (IS) attacked Peshmerga Monday night and he said that Kurdish forces responded in fierce fighting that lasted about one hour,(IS) had casualties, but the numbers are unknown. Peshmerga suffered no casualties, the Brig. General added. According to Saadun, coalition forces responded to the area, launching an airstrike on militant positions during clashes. Sinjar (Shingal in Kurdish) populated primarily by members of the Yazidi community, lies 125 kilometers west of Iraq's second largest city Mosul. The town and its surroundings were targeted by an IS offensive last August that forced tens of thousands Yazidis to flee from the area.

Economic

A Kurdish minister discuss with Canadian ambassador Canadian companies investing in Kurdistan

4th of June, 2015

Source: PUK media

Erbil: Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Kurdistan Regional Government Yousif goran discussed with Canadian Ambassador Bruno Sakumani the possibility of Canadian companies investing in Kurdistan region. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan site said " Sakumani stressed during the meeting the Canadian government continued position to provide humanitarian and military aid to Iraq, noting that his country is ready to support Kurdistan region and develop relationship, especially in the field of education. The Minster of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Kurdistan Regional Government asked the Canadian Universities to invest in Kurdistan.