

# DinarAlert Iraqi Television Transcript Service (ITTS)

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## 12/3/13 Al Iraqiya nightly news

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*Today's evening news includes on-going frustration over security issues, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki begins an official visit to Iran tomorrow, river transport has now been activated on both Euphrates and Tigris rivers to ease congestion, an economic update including the high levels of wheat and barley, ongoing efforts to provide 24/7 electricity, and international financial and monetary experts say the Dinar is artificially low and measures need to be take to raise the value.*

- Local news: Al Qaeda linked group is linked to the suicide bombing and mortar attack that killed nine and wounded 17 people in a government complex in the town of Tarmiya about 15 miles north of Baghdad; one attacker was wearing a suicide belt; the building which houses the mayor's office and a police station was severely damaged; other attackers opened fire on guards and fired mortar rounds; other military and police units arrived and cordoned the area to investigate - In Tikrit a car bomb killed four security personnel and injured 19 others; the attack targeted a police building; civilians were among the injured - In the Qusiyat area of Mosul in Nineveh province an IED targeting a patrol of oil police killed two policemen and wounded six; the well organized attack is the signature of a unit of Al Qaeda linked group said a police investigator; the police officers belonged to Ain Zala oil police station in northeastern Mosul - Also in Tikrit in Salaheddine Province an attack by four suicide bombers targeted the social welfare building; the attack resulted in seven killed and 21 injured - In Abu Ghraib an IED exploded in a busy market killing two and injuring 8 others - The spike in attacks that started beginning 2013 are almost entirely blamed on Al Qaeda

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linked groups and more people are calling for arming local militia to help protect citizens in their areas; a proposal that the government strongly oppose as it will create the same conditions at the height of the sectarian strife that gripped the country in the mid 2000s; people are angry and frustrated an MP said.

The Legal Parliamentary Commission turned down a request of some MPs to freeze the financing of the Iraqi Media Network (IMN) in 2014 for lack of legal basis; the majority of MPs say that IMN is doing a good job especially in reporting terrorist attacks and its drive to assist security forces.

The Ministry of Environment launched a campaign for certain vehicles to use liquid natural gas instead of gasoline to ease pollution that some say is choking Baghdad and other major cities.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is scheduled to start an official visit to Iran tomorrow 12/4; the discussions will touch on security, energy and the Syrian civil war; a spokesman strongly denied rumors that circulated by some news media that Maliki's visit was designed to get the blessing of the Iranians for Maliki seeking a third term in office; the spokesman said that the Prime Minister will congratulate President Hassan Rouhani for winning the elections and he and the accompanying delegates will discuss matters of mutual interest.

- Regional news: Syria - A suicide bomber blew himself up in central Damascus killing four and wounding 17 others; the target was not clear but observers say that it is very likely that the terrorist was targeting the official news media office; security officials closed the immediate area to search for other possible terrorists or IEDs - A Syrian mother superior blamed opposition forces of abducting 12 nuns and three other women in the Christian town of Maaloula that has exchanged hands between the rebels and

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government forces several times this year; the terrorists are believed to have taken the nuns to Yabroud, another predominantly Christian town held by the rebels; Syria's Greek Orthodox patriarch echoed the superior mother's appeal for the release of the nuns and the other women; many political and religious leaders around the world called for the quick release of the hostages and asked the head of the Free Syrian Army to help; rebel groups in Syria are fractured and every group has a different agenda, mainly over the control of certain areas and the flow of money and arms.

Egypt: A liberal Egyptian blogger was arrested by security forces of the army backed government; Ahmed Douma became famous for his opposition to ex Presidents Hosni Mubarak and Mohammed Mursi who were deposed of by popular uprisings and backing of the military; this time Douma and other activists like him say that the current interim government went too far when they banned demonstrations without prior permission; most Egyptians are against the Muslim Brotherhood but they want to see economic improvements and the return to a democratically elected civilian government; oil rich Arab countries are helping Egypt but certain sectors of the economy have suffered especially tourism.

Israel: Residents of the Gaza strip took to the sea in all kinds of boats to protest the embargo imposed by Israel; fishermen are starving a protester said; Gaza where about 2.5 million people live are mostly very poor; they are squeezed by Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank; donkey pulled carts are picking up garbage in Gaza city instead of garbage trucks due to shortage in fuel.

- Financial news: Two international oil companies said that they will spend millions of dollars in "social work" including paving of roads in Thi Qar Province where oil exploration and extraction have been on the rise; the Oil Ministry includes clauses in its contracts for the provision of social work by

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the oil companies that said they have already spent \$17 million on such projects since 2010.

The General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers along with the Ministry of Defense activated river transport of people and goods in all cities and provinces on the banks of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers; river transport will ease bottlenecks in car congested cities such as Baghdad; the revenue is expected to pay for the investment in purchasing the vessels and building or rehabilitating river ports and other facilities; the project will also help increase tourism.

Baghdad Municipal Council issued invitations to bid on low cost housing projects in the city and its surroundings; twenty five international companies expressed interest in bidding on the large project; about 50,000 units are needed in Baghdad alone; an additional 200,000 such units are called for in other provinces; these low cost units will help the poor and underprivileged live in a decent home; the size of these units is 150 square meters (about 1,500 square feet) each; over the next few years tens of billions of dollars will be invested in housing projects across the country.

The Ministry of Agriculture said that it is expecting an abundance in wheat and barley production this season; fruits and vegetable production is also expected to rise; that will ease the burden of importing such necessities; Iraq should be able export grains and produce in the near future a ministry's spokesman said; "the era of depending on imports should be put behind us; after all this is the fertile crescent and cradle of agriculture" he added.

The Ministry of Electricity said that power production and distribution projects are being constructed on time and work on maintaining and protecting facilities is ongoing 24/7 and around the clock despite the spike in violence and increased terrorist attacks in certain provinces; electricity projects are on top of priorities in the five plan and tens of billions of dollars will be budgeted every year for the next few years.

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Iraqi and international financial and monetary experts say that the deletion of zeros project is still an option for 2014 despite political haggling and government interference in CBI affairs; the debate is expected to heat up in the coming weeks; they all agree that the Dinar's value is artificially low and the deletion of zeros in addition to other measures will help appreciate its value.

- Sports: Kirkuk Province announced plans to construct 20 new soccer fields, some will feature small stadiums - A new schedule was issued for the western Asian soccer games after the withdrawal of the Yemeni team.
  
- \* **Scrolling banner: The Turkish Minister of Energy returned to Ankara after a two day visit; he said that the Iraqi federal government and Kurdistan region should resolve the issue of oil exportation from Kurdistan to Turkey.**

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