

## Kurds Dig New Frontier In North Iraq

MARIAM BEK, Iraq (AP) — As Islamic extremists seek to sweep away borders in their advance across the Middle East, Kurds in northern Iraq appear to be in the process of digging a new one, asserting their claim to hotly disputed territory and expanding their semi-autonomous region in a bid for greater autonomy or outright independence.

The emerging frontier of sand berms, trenches and roadblocks is being built to take in areas Kurdish fighters seized as Sunni militants led by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant swept across northern Iraq last month, routing the armed forces of the Shiite-led government in Baghdad and raising fears the country could be torn in three.

Kurdish forces say they assumed control of the disputed territory in and around Kirkuk — a major oil hub — to prevent it from being taken over by the Sunni insurgents as Iraqi troops melted away. They say the defense of the 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) frontier is necessary to prevent the militants, who have declared a transnational Islamic state straddling the Syrian-Iraqi border, from advancing further.

"This is a security measure. We are dealing with a serious threat," said Falah Bakir, the Kurdish region's top foreign policy official. "We are neighbors to a terrorist state — the Islamic State — and we have to take measures to ensure our safety."

But the barriers, hastily built over the past few days, are also defining the borders of a possible future Kurdish state, and laying the groundwork for a conflict with Baghdad over Kirkuk, which has a mixed population of Kurds, Arabs and Turkmen.

## 'Inconsistencies' Plague Health Sign-Ups

WASHINGTON (AP) — Many of the 8 million Americans signed up under the new health care law now have to clear up questions about their personal information that could affect their coverage.

A government watchdog said Tuesday the Obama administration faces a huge task resolving these "inconsistencies" and in some cases didn't follow its own procedures for verifying eligibility.

Two reports from the Health and Human Services inspector general marked the first independent look at a festering behind-the-scenes issue that could turn into another health law headache for the White House.

The inspector general found that key personal details submitted by many consumers — such as annual income and citizenship — do not match records the government has on file.

It also found shortcomings in the internal safeguards used by the federal insurance exchange and some state marketplaces to check the accuracy of consumer information.

## Israel PM Threatens Action On Hamas

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's prime minister threatened Tuesday to take even tougher action against Hamas following an intense wave of airstrikes in the Gaza Strip, as the country buried three Israeli teens it says were kidnapped and killed by the Islamic militant group.

In comments broadcast live on national television, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his first goal is to find the killers of the three teens. "We will not rest until we reach the last of them," he said.

But a broader mission is to act against Hamas in its Gaza stronghold, the Israeli leader said as he convened an emergency meeting of his Security Cabinet to discuss a response to the deadly abductions.

"Hamas continues to support, even at this time, the kidnappings of our citizens and is directly responsible for firing rockets and mortars at our territory, including in recent hours," Netanyahu said.

"If there is a need, we will broaden the campaign as much as needed."

## Hight Court Sees More Common Ground

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court justices found more common ground than usual this year, and nowhere was their unanimity more surprising than in a ruling that police must get a judge's approval before searching the cellphones of people they've arrested.

The term that just ended also had its share of 5-4 decisions with the familiar conservative-liberal split, including Monday's ruling on religion, birth control and the health care law.

But the 9-0 cellphone decision last week may be the most consequential of the justices' 67 rulings this term. It signaled a high degree of skepticism about the government's authority, without any need to satisfy an impartial judge, to sweep up vast quantities of information that individuals store on computers and cellphones, as well as other records that companies keep online.

The scope of that ruling will await future cases, including possible challenges to NSA's surveillance and collection of massive amounts of Americans' telephone records. But the justices indicated that constitutional privacy protections, embodied in the Fourth Amendment, will apply strongly to cases involving computers and digital storage, said Elizabeth Wydra, the liberal Constitutional Accountability Center's chief counsel.

Chief Justice John Roberts' opinion for the court "was a broad and sweeping ruling in favor of privacy," Wydra said.

## Water Fetching Record Prices In Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Throughout California's desperately dry Central Valley, those with water to spare are cashing in.

As a third parched summer forces farmers to fallow fields and lay off workers, two water districts and a pair of landowners in the heart of the state's farmland are making millions of dollars by auctioning off their private caches.

Nearly 40 others also are seeking to sell their surplus water this year, according to state and federal records.

Economists say it's been decades since the water market has been this hot. In the last five years alone, the price has grown tenfold to as much as \$2,200 an acre-foot — enough to cover a football field with a foot of water.

Unlike the previous drought in 2009, the state has been hands-off, letting the market set the price even though severe shortages prompted a statewide drought emergency declaration this year.

## NIH Program Fights Mysterious Diseases

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is expanding its "mystery disease" program, funding a network at six universities to help diagnose patients' super-rare diseases.

The National Institutes of Health has evaluated hundreds of these cold-case patients in its campus research hospital as part of a pilot program since 2008. Demand is so great, there's a waiting list.

So on Tuesday, the agency announced the NIH Undiagnosed Diseases Network, a four-year, \$43 million initiative to bring more doctor-detectives on board. The goal is to at least put a name to more patients' puzzling symptoms, and then eventually find treatments.

The centers include: Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Duke University, Stanford University, University of California, Los Angeles, Vanderbilt University and the Harvard University teaching hospitals Brigham and Women's, Massachusetts General and Boston Children's.

# Militant Urges Muslims To Build Islamic State

BY RYAN LUCAS  
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The leader of the extremist group that has overrun parts of Iraq and Syria has called on Muslims around the world to flock to territories under his control to fight and build an Islamic state.

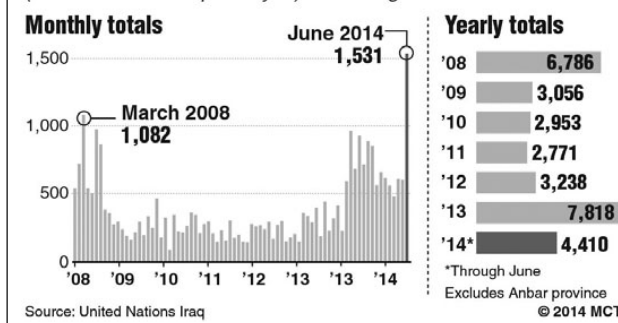
In a recording posted online Tuesday, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared he wants to turn the enclave his fighters have carved out in the heart of the Middle East into a magnet for militants. He also presented himself as the leader of Islam worldwide, urging Muslims everywhere to rise up against oppression.

The audio message came two days after al-Baghdadi's group, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, unilaterally declared the establishment of an Islamic state, or caliphate, in the land it controls. It also proclaimed al-Baghdadi the caliph, and demanded that all Muslims around the world pledge allegiance to him.

His group's forceful seizure of territory and its grand pronouncement of a caliphate have transformed the Iraqi-born al-Baghdadi into one of the leading figures of the global jihadi movement, perhaps even eclipsing al-Qaida chief Ayman al-Zawahiri.

## Civilian deaths in Iraq

The number of civilians killed in Iraq has risen sharply since ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria) rebels began their attack.



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The blitz across Iraq has pushed the death toll there to levels unseen since the worst sectarian bloodletting in 2006 during the U.S. occupation. The United Nations said Tuesday that more than 2,400 Iraqis were killed last month. That tally would make June the deadliest month in Iraq since at least April 2005, when The Associated Press began tracking casualty figures there.

After melting away in the initial onslaught, Iraq's military and security forces have regrouped and managed to stem the tide at the outskirts of Shiite-dominated regions.

The country's political leaders, however, have been unable to bridge their differences to confront the militant threat, and failed again in parliament Tuesday.

In his 19-minute address, al-Baghdadi said the Islamic state was a land for all Muslims regardless of nationality, telling them it "will return your dignity, rights and leadership."

"It is a state where the Arab and non-Arab, the white man and black man, the easterner and westerner are all brothers," he said, trying to broaden his base beyond the Middle East.

"Muslims, rush to your state. Yes, it is your state. Rush, because Syria is not for the Syrians, and Iraq is not for

the Iraqis. The Earth is Allah's."

To help build that state, he appealed to those with practical skills — scholars, judges, doctors, engineers, former soldiers and people with administrative expertise — to "answer the dire need of the Muslims for them."

He also urged militants to escalate fighting in the holy month of Ramadan, which began Sunday.

"In this virtuous month or in any other month, there is no deed better than jihad in the path of Allah, so take advantage of this opportunity and walk the path of your righteous predecessors," he said. "So, to arms, to arms, soldiers of the Islamic state, fight, fight."

In an appeal to Muslims worldwide, he said: "The time has come for you to free yourself from the shackles of weakness, and stand in the face of tyranny."

The message was posted on militant websites where the group has issued statements before, and the voice resembled that on other recordings said to be by al-Baghdadi, who has rarely been photographed or appeared in public.

## USA! USA!



OLIVIER DOULIERI/ABACA PRESS/MCT  
Soccer fans converge into Freedom Plaza in Washington, D.C., to watch the United States take on Belgium in the knockout round of the World Cup on Tuesday. The United States lost the match 2-1, ending its World Cup run.

## Pro-Russian Rebels Capture Police HQ In Ukraine

BY BALINT SZLANKO  
Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — The Interior Ministry headquarters in eastern Ukraine's largest city fell to pro-Russia separatists Tuesday after a five-hour gunbattle that erupted hours after the Ukrainian president ended a cease-fire.

The shaky cease-fire had given European leaders 10 days to search for a peaceful settlement, and its end raised the prospect that fighting could flare with new intensity in a conflict that has already killed more than 400 people since April.

In Tuesday's clashes, rebels fought for more ground, and badly trained and disorganized government troops seemed incapable of crushing the mutiny.

President Petro Poroshenko had called a unilateral cease-fire to try to persuade the rebels to lay down their weapons and hold peace talks. Some of the rebels signed onto the break in fighting as tentative negotiations began, but each side accused the other of repeated violations. When he ended the cease-fire, the president said the rebels were not serious about peace.

In Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin argued that substantive talks with representatives in eastern Ukraine had failed to start in earnest and that the cease-fire announced by Poroshenko amounted to an ultimatum to the rebels to disarm.

The Russian leader also denounced the Western threat of sanctions as blackmail, adding that Moscow wouldn't accept "ultimatums and mentor's tone."

Europe must not allow "any unconstitutional coups and interference into the domestic affairs of sovereign states" and should steer clear of "inciting radical and neo-Nazi forces" to avoid destabilization, Putin said.

Russia has cast February's ouster of Ukraine's former pro-Moscow president following massive protests as a coup conducted by radical nationalists and neo-Nazis.

In Donetsk, the capital of Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, many streets were deserted, and gunfire filled the air Tuesday as rebels besieged the headquarters of the regional Interior Ministry. The rebels eventually captured the compound, leaving the body of a plainclothes police officer outside.

# Dead Migrant Boy's Mom Begged Him Not To Make Trek

BY SONIA PEREZ D. AND CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN  
Associated Press

SAN JOSE LAS FLORES, Guatemala — The mother of a Guatemalan boy whose body was found in the desert about a mile from Texas' southern border said Tuesday she begged him not set out on the dangerous journey from their modest wood-and-sheet-metal home high in the northern Cuchumatanes mountains.

But Cipriana Juarez Diaz, ailing and bedridden, said her son Gilberto told her he wanted to earn money to help her.

"I said, 'Son, it's better if you stay. Everything I have here is for you,'" the woman recalled Tuesday in an interview with a local reporter, adding that she draped him with a white rosary as he left. "Now my son is dead, and I think about how he suffered."

Gilberto Francisco Ramos Juarez was found with the rosary still around his neck and a brother's Chicago phone number scribbled on the inside of his belt buckle about two weeks ago. He was alone in brush less than a mile from the nearest U.S. home, a South Texas sheriff said Monday. He apparently got lost on his way north and likely died from the elements. An autopsy did not find signs of trauma.

His birth certificate says he was 11 years old. But his father, Francisco Ramos Diaz, said Tuesday that the boy was really 15.

"I said, 'Son, it's better if you stay. Everything I have here is for you.'"

## CIPRIANA JUAREZ DIAZ

Ramos Diaz said Gilberto's birth certificate carried the birth date of his younger brother because it took the family several years to register him. Because the parents couldn't remember the exact date of Gilberto's birth, they gave the same date for both young sons, who became listed as twins.

While hundreds of immigrants die crossing the border each year, the discovery of Gilberto's decomposed body in the Rio Grande Valley on June 15 highlights the perils unaccompanied children face as the U.S. government searches for ways to deal with record numbers of children crossing into the country illegally.

Hidalgo County Sheriff Eddie Guerra said he was the first child immigrant his office has found since he became sheriff in April.

More than 52,000 unaccompanied children have been apprehended entering the U.S. illegally since October, creating what President Barack Obama has called an "urgent humanitarian situation." On Monday, Obama asked Congress for more money and additional authority to deal with the surge of youths, mostly from Central America. Obama wants flexibility to speed the

youths' deportations and \$2 billion to hire more immigration judges and open more detention facilities.

The number of unaccompanied immigrant children picked up along the border has been rising for three years as they fled pervasive gang violence in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. More recently, children and parents have said they heard children traveling alone and parents traveling with young kids would be released by authorities and allowed to continue to their destination.

Many of the children turn themselves in to the first law enforcement person they see, so Guerra said it was unusual to find a child in this more remote area — near La Joya, about 20 miles west of McAllen. Sometimes smugglers, known as coyotes, leave people behind if they can't go on; other times a group may scatter when authorities approach.

About 445 immigrants died along the U.S.-Mexico border last year, according to the Border Patrol. The Pima County medical examiner in Arizona, which is the perennial leader in immigrant deaths, recorded 168 of the deaths; of the 70 where an age was confirmed, none were younger than 13.

Gilberto set out from chilly, rugged terrain, the peaks and canyons of an area only accessible by dirt road. Associated Press reporters hiked a rocky, muddy path for 45 minutes

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