

Five killed in three Baghdad car bombs

By Todd Pitman
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Kurdish and Shiite leaders agreed to convene Iraq's new parliament Wednesday even if they fail to complete a deal to form a coalition government. Three car bombs exploded Tuesday in Baghdad, killing at least five people, police said.

Shiite officials said they also agreed to reach out to the country's Sunni Arab community to name the parliament speaker for the 275-member National Assembly that is to convene for the first time since the Jan. 30 elections.

In northern Iraq, insurgents blew up an oil pipeline connecting the Kirkuk fields with a refinery in Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad, an official in the Northern Oil Co. said. The pipeline is used only for domestic deliveries, the official said on condition of anonymity. He did not have details on the extent of the damage.

A car bomb targeting a U.S. military convoy exploded on a road about 500 yards from the main avenue leading to Baghdad's international airport, police Capt. Thamer Talib said. Four civilians were killed and seven were wounded, including two police officers, he said.

Witnesses said some American troops also were wounded, although that was not confirmed by U.S. officials. When U.S. forces arrived to evacuate them, another car bomb exploded, wounding more troops. One Humvee was destroyed and two civilian cars were in flames, witnesses said.

A U.S. military spokesman said he was checking into the report.

Another suicide car bomb exploded in northeastern Baghdad, killing one child and wounding at least four people, including a police officer, police

Col. Muhanad Sadoun said. The bomber was trying to hit a patrol of traffic police but crashed into a tree, Sadoun said.

In Mosul, the U.S. military said Tuesday that six insurgents were killed and four were injured Monday in clashes with U.S. and Iraqi forces.

A U.S. Marine with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force died Monday in Anbar, a troubled province that has been a hotbed

of guerrilla activity and includes the cities of Fallujah, Ramadi and Qaim, officials said Tuesday. At least 1,515 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.



Photo courtesy of www.back-to-iraq.com

Car bombs frequently occur at check points in Iraq.

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Around Qaim, near the Syrian border, a U.S. Marine transport helicopter and a Cobra gunship destroyed a truck whose occupants used a mounted machine gun to fire on them, Marine Maj. Sean Gibson said. Both aircraft returned safely to a nearby base and no one aboard was injured, he said.

The Shiite clergy-backed

United Iraqi Alliance and a Kurdish coalition, which won the two biggest blocks of seats in January's landmark elections, agreed last week to form a coalition government with Islamic Dawa Party leader Ibrahim al-Jaafari as prime minister. In return, Jalal Talabani will become Iraq's first Kurdish president.

"We discussed the blueprint of the agreement reached Thursday. Some issues were revised and

distant third in the parliamentary elections.

Al-Dabagh declined to discuss details of the issues that snagged the Shiite alliance's talks with the Kurds.

"We still do not have an agreement on who will be parliament speaker," he said. "We do not want to name the speaker; the Sunnis must participate in this decision."

A meeting with Sunni Arab representatives will be held Tuesday.

Sunni Arabs, who comprise only about 20 percent of the population but were the dominant group under Saddam Hussein's regime, largely stayed away from the elections.

On Tuesday, Iraqi authorities stepped up security around the heavily fortified Green Zone, where the parliament will meet. Two bridges leading to the Green Zone were shut down by Iraqi security forces, and roadblocks were erected on other streets leading to the area.

The U.S.-led coalition press office issued a statement saying the newly elected members will take the oath of office Wednesday. They will then elect the parliament speaker and two deputies, as well as the new transitional government's three-member Presidency Council.

The United Iraqi Alliance has proposed Sheik Fawaz al-Jarba, one of the few Sunni Arabs in its coalition, to be speaker. It was unclear whether the Sunni community would agree.

Sunni Arabs are believed to make up the core of the insurgency and including them in the political process was seen as a way to isolate the militants.

The Shiite alliance won 140 seats in the National Assembly, but needs the Kurds' 75 seats to assemble the two-thirds majority required to elect a president, who will then nominate the prime

minister.

Authorities in Najaf, south of Baghdad, arrested a suspect believed to have been involved in the 2003 assassination of Shiite leader Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim, said police chief Maj. Gen. Ghaleb al-Jazaeri.

Ramzy Hashim was arrested 10 days ago and confessed that he was one of the assailants in the Aug. 29, 2003, attack outside a Najaf mosque that killed more than 85 people, including al-Hakim.

The Baghdad office of Abdel Aziz al-Hakim, the cleric's younger brother and leader of the alliance, confirmed that a suspect involved in the assassination was detained in Najaf more than a week ago.

Al-Jazaeri added that Hashim allegedly came to Najaf with other accomplices to carry out attacks on the office of Iraq's top Shiite authority, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said organized crime and criminals-for-hire appear to be taking a bigger role in the insurgency, although former Saddam loyalists and foreign fighters still pose a major threat.

"That may be a larger piece of what we're seeing out there, as opposed to hardcore insurgents," he said. Some are "people just executing crimes to make money and to gain influence," and some aim to intimidate, "much like organized crime has done in other parts of the world," he added.

Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, commander of the U.S. effort to train and equip Iraqi security forces, said Monday that about 50,000 of the 145,000 Iraqis trained and equipped so far are capable of taking on insurgents.

Associated Press reporters Qasim Abdul-Zahra in Baghdad and Yahya Barzanji in Kirkuk contributed to this report.

Hayes Awards, Washington D.C. Schwartz has directed the Irish Music Celebration in Washington D.C. for several years.

Schwartz is very active in many fields of communications. She directed the closing ceremony for the 1992 Olympics held in Barcelona. She also directed the opening ceremonies and the Women in Sports exhibit for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Schwartz is the founder of the David Abarndmson foundation, a program that financially funds education for African students who are earning medical degrees in America.

There is a possibility of a second speaker to accompany Schwartz's presentation.

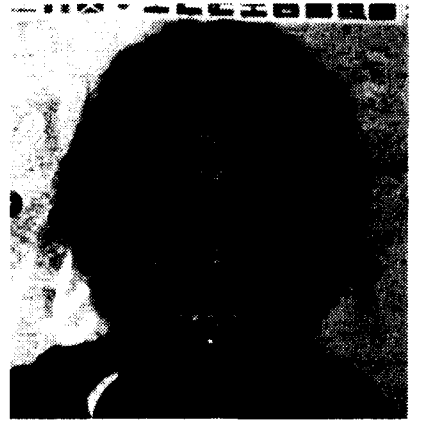
The event will be catered by Stacks Market.

in the Morrison Gallery in the Library. Schwartz will be talking about her career to illustrate the possibilities of interdisciplinary studies, which is the basis for the Communications program at PSH.

Dr. Kathryn Robinson is bringing Schwartz to speak in conjunction with the fall semester guest Don Finn. Robinson hopes to motivate students to embrace new ideas and adventures when released into the world. "She is not unwilling to go where she knows nothing," said Robinson. "I think the students will benefit from talking with her."

Among many varied careers, Schwartz is an actress and director for both film and theater. She has written two books and is the original creator of the Helen

World View



By Osman Abdalla
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The term "skepticism" is derived from a Greek noun, skepsis, which means examination or inquiry consideration. What leads most skeptics to examine every phenomenon is that there is no certainty. It is always better to ask about any idea than to just spontaneously believe in it.

David Hume's skepticism treats the ancient philosophers' skepticism as dissipated plebeian principles. And he considered that ancient philosophers would be entirely forgotten after they leave the feelings of our hearts, the agitation of our passions, and the vehemence of our affection. He also considered that modern philosophy had improved and will improve. In addition, he considered that in every art or profession that the spirit of accuracy, however acquired, will carry modern society nearer to its perfection.

Hume's extreme skepticism appears clearer than anywhere else when he says, "Nothing, at first view, may seem more unbounded than the thought of man, which not only escapes all human power and authority, but is not even restrained within the limits of nature and reality." In the section of Skeptical Doubts Concerning the Operation of Understanding, Hume doubted any demonstrative and undemonstrative ideas as long as they were conceived by the human mind, even matters of fact. So basically, there is absolutely nothing we can base on to demonstrate our hypotheses. All that we have done so far to explain the world is maybe just paradoxes, or from our own un-intact fiction.

Most of the definitions published and spread about skepticism claim that skepticism is the thinking mechanism of thinking skeptically or with doubt. To me, to be a skeptic, is still controversial, especially when I ask myself this question: is believing in doubt a belief? To deal with any issue by doubting it, is a judgment. Taking that action of doubt is based on belief, which is similar to pragmatism. To suspend judgment is basically to suspend final answers to a question because there is nothing indubitable. Therefore pre-judgment might furnish for further deception or constant belief.

Starting from an ignorant state does not exist anyway; there is no such action without a belief or judgment. But let me break the word belief down to its unforeseeable degrees. There are numerous kinds of beliefs that reside between the judgment of right and the absolute belief of certain idea. The difference between the belief and its precedent beliefs is in quantity, not in quality. So actually, the development of belief is simply defines being as dynamic. Also, the fact that we are thinking things defines our being as dynamic.

So the start of belief B, about the issue I, develops itself to B2 after the doubt process or the mind turns by a certain observation, and so on until the accomplishment of BA, which is the absolute believe. This could be either the freedom from the misery of doubt or starting of another paradox.

So many careers, all the time in the world

Speaker to tell students about interdisciplinary career at PSH

By Kathryn Herr
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Bonnie Nelson Schwartz will be speaking to Penn State Harrisburg students on March 30 at 2 p.m. The event will be held

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-Kathryn Robinson

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Photo courtesy of www.wiscu.edu

Bonnie Nelson Schwartz, actress, director and author, will be speaking at PSH on March 30.

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