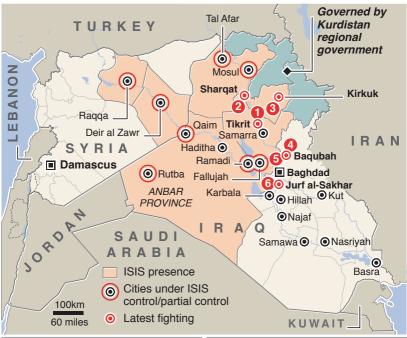
Iraq: Battle for Tikrit escalates



- 1 Tikrit: Iragi army and Shia militia -Popular Defence Companies - face stiff resistance in third day of fighting to retake city from ISIS
- 2 Sharqat: ISIS gunmen kidnap 20 members of Iraqi army
- 3 Kirkuk: Heavy clashes south of Kirkuk between ISIS and Peshmerga Kurd fighters

east of Bagubah 5 Bomb and mortar attack on Iragi army convoy north of Baghdad

militants take over several villages

near strategic Mansuriya gas field,

4 Bagubah: After six days of fighting

6 Jurf al-Sakhar: Two days of heavy fighting between ISIS and infantry brigade at Iragi army base