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Embassy - Newsletter

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Dear Compatriots and Friends,

Iraq is steadfastly advancing on its path to broaden the spectrum of its economy and fortify connections both regionally and globally. Presently, a multitude of enterprises from various corners of the globe are channelling investments into Iraq, recognizing the distinctive potentials and myriad opportunities it presents.

The Iraqi government remains committed to implement policies geared towards realizing its objective of establishing open markets and fostering an environment conducive to attracting a diverse array of investors.

With my best wishes,

Mohammad Jaafar al-Sadr

Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland



200K-Long Security Fence Between Iraq, Iran Completed

As part of an agreement made earlier this year between Baghdad and Tehran regarding border security, Iraq announced that a 200-kilometer border security barrier on its border with Iran had been completed.

An official in the Iraqi Interior Ministry said that a 200-kilometer-long security barrier and more than 150 thermal cameras have been installed on the border with Iran.

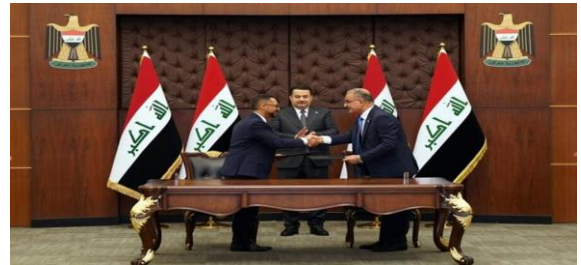
The step aims to stop illegal activities and smuggling on the border strip with Iran.



Iraq signs Cooperation Agreement with ICAO

The Iraqi Prime Minister, Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani, sponsored a ceremony to sign a cooperation agreement with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Al-Sudani sponsored a cooperation agreement between the Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority (ICAA) and the ICAO to increase the capacities of the Iraqi authority, according to a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).



Iraq a new member in European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) announced that Iraq has become its 74th member.

Iraq initially applied to join the bank in 2018. Now that it is a shareholder, it may seek to become a beneficiary economy and get EBRD funding and policy support.

The President of the EBRD, Odile Renaud-Basso, mentioned in a statement that the bank is looking forward to starting work in Iraq and applying its expertise to developing Iraq's economy soon.



375 displaced Yazidis return to their original areas in Sinjar

The Iraqi Minister of Migration and Displacement, Evan Jabro, announced the return of 375 displaced Yazidis to their original areas in Sinjar.

The 375 displaced Yazidis returned from a refugee camp in Zakho district in northwestern Duhok governorate in Iraqi Kurdistan to their original residential areas in Sinjar district in Nineveh governorate.



After 38 years, Iraq joins UNESCO's Executive Board

The Iraqi Ministry of Education announced on Wednesday that Iraq has won membership in the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), for the first time in 38 years.

The elections of members of the Executive Board took place on Wednesday during the activities of the International Conference of UNESCO at its 42nd session in the French capital, Paris.



Iraqi government, UNICEF launch Green Schools project



The Iraqi government, in cooperation with UNICEF, began implementing the Green Schools project, utilizing solar energy to generate electricity to light schools across Iraq.

Iraq is taking actual steps to utilize renewable energy in a country that possesses large resources of this energy, generated by wind, solar, and hydroelectric energy, and the first of these steps is to use solar panels to light primary schools.

Chief of water, sanitation, and hygiene program at UNICEF- Iraq, Ali Al-Khateeb, told sky news arabia that UNICEF is launching the Green Schools Initiative to illuminate more than 250 schools throughout Iraq, as well as some health institutions, by providing clean energy.



Iraq participates in the 33rd Session of IMO



The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), H.E. Ambassador Muhammad Jaafar Al-Sadr, heads the delegation of the Republic of Iraq participating in the thirty-third session of IMO, held from 27/11-6/12/2023, with the participation of representatives from more than 160 Member States.

The Embassy of the Republic of Iraq receives archaeological pieces

H.E. Ambassador Muhammad Jaafar al-Sadr in cooperation with the British Museum, received archaeological pieces consisting of three seals and an archaeological tablet dated back to the Mesopotamia civilization from about 2000 BC to 600 AD from a British woman. As well as, the embassy also received another artifact from the British Museum, which is a piece of an archaeological wall, backed to Sumerian era.



H.E. appreciated the British woman's initiative and the role of Mr. John Simpson, Director of the Middle East Department at the British Museum for their work and cooperation with the Embassy.

Iraq launches Downtown Baghdad Project

The Head of the National Investment Authority, Haider Mohammad Makiya, launched the Downtown Baghdad Project, which will include constructing Iraq's tallest tower, with 65 floors.

Makiya stated during his remarks at the inaugural ceremony that the Downtown Baghdad Project will be a modern and contemporary residential complex., the project will be sustainable, with no additional costs for electrical energy and thermal insulation paid by the operating companies.





PM Al-Sudani meets the Iraqi ambassadors

PM Al-Sudani addressed the 7th conference of the Iraqi Ambassadors in the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the senior staff in the ministry.

Prime Minister Al-Sudani highlighted Iraq's official stance regarding the recent regional developments and reaffirmed Iraq's commitment and communications with Arab and international partners in order to reach a ceasefire in Gaza and provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people.

HE stressed that Iraq's position unwaveringly aligns with its historical stance, championed by the Iraqi people, religious authorities, and political leaders. He emphasized the importance of Iraqi diplomatic missions unequivocally conveying Iraq's firm stance on the Palestinian cause, a matter of profound principle and unwavering conviction.



Iraq, Azerbaijan Sign Economic, Trade Agreements



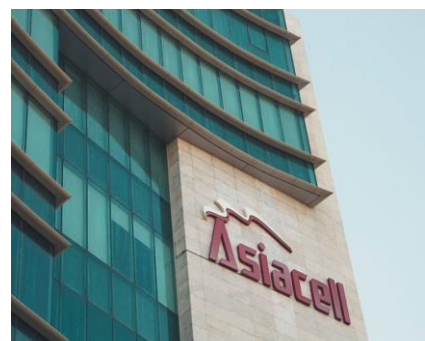
President, Abdul Latif Rashid, met at the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, with the Azerbaijani President, Ilham Aliyev.

The meeting addressed the developments of the political, security, and economic situations on the international level, especially the stances of Iraq and Azerbaijan towards the situation in the Gaza Strip, according to a statement released by the Iraqi Presidency. On the side line of the visit, both sides signed an economic and trade agreement.

Asiacell keeps up its steady growth in Iraq

Asiacell continued to perform well into the third quarter, increasing revenue and EBITDA by double digits. In Iraq, Asiacell's client base was steady at 17.1 million.

Asiacell, which is mostly owned by the Ooredoo Group of Qatar, had a 19% rise in revenue due to increasing data revenues. An increase in EBITDA of 25% and a 2pp margin improvement to 46% were driven by higher margin data revenues.



Iraq to generate energy by recycling waste



The Chairman of the National Investment Commission (NIC), Haider Makiya, announced that the commission received many requests to carry out waste-to-energy projects.

Makiya illustrated that different techniques can be used to carry out the project, clarifying that waste-to-energy projects will free Iraq from the gas and carbon emissions resulting from waste burning, adding that waste can be treated in a scientific manner.

Makiya indicated that specialists from different ministries studied waste treatment projects and came up with important results in terms of the required standards.

The spokesperson of the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity, confirmed last year that the ministry is intending to carry out waste recycling projects in cooperation with the Baghdad Municipality and other governorates. Under the '0 Landfill 0 Emission' project, the Baghdad municipality said that it plans to put out a contract to transform 3,000 tons of waste per day into 80 megawatts per hour.

The program will lessen the amount of waste that is disposed of, which will have a negative impact on landfills and the environment. Waste-to-energy is a new method that uses waste as a fuel source to produce power or heat.

Iraq towards a solar-powered era

In a small village in the mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan, solar panels adorn most homes, part of a small but growing effort to harness the sun's energy in Iraq, where electricity is scarce.

"Solar covers all our needs: the refrigerator, television, air cooler, washing machine, vacuum cleaner," a resident of the village Hazar Merd who converted to solar and hasn't looked back, he spent \$2,800 in 2018 to install photovoltaic panels for his family home.



Iraq's Oil Ministry releases information about next round of bidding



Additional projects and improved contractual conditions are being added by the Iraqi Ministry of Oil in an attempt to attract international investors for its next licensing rounds.

The Oil Ministry in Iraq is hoping to attract multinational energy corporations back into its oil and gas industry by enhancing contractual conditions and expanding its ambitions to give up more area to foreign investors.

The Iraqi Oil Ministry decided to add six extra investment opportunities to the 24 it had originally planned to offer over the two upcoming contract auctions.

Iraq's Oil export revenues in October exceed \$9.6 billion

The Iraqi Ministry of Oil announced that oil export revenues through October surpassed \$9.6 billion.

According to row data issued by the State Organization for Marketing of Oil (SOMO), the total exports of crude oil during October were more than 109.54 million barrels, with revenues slightly exceeding \$9.66 billion.

SOMO data revealed that the total quantities of crude oil exported during October from oil fields in central and southern Iraq were 108,050,360 barrels; the quantities exported to Jordan were 464,728 barrels; and oil exports from the Al-Qayyarah oilfield in Nineveh governorate in northern Iraq were 1,030,501 barrels.



Mitsubishi Completes Oil Berth In Khor Al-Zubair Port



The Iraqi Ministry of Transport announced on Monday the inauguration of an oil berth in the Khor Al-Zubair Port.

The General Company for Ports of Iraq (GCPI) opened an oil berth in the Khor Al-Zubair Port, one of the most important projects of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in the presence of the Japanese Ambassador to Iraq, Futoshi Matsumoto, according to a statement released by the Iraqi Transport Ministry. With a 340-meter length, the oil berth becomes the longest in Iraq.



TotalEnergies Project in South Iraq to be Completed by 2028



According to Iraq's Oil Minister Hayyan Abdul-Ghani, a \$27 billion agreement between Iraq and France's TotalEnergies inked in July 2023 will generate almost 600 million cubic feet per day (mcf/d) of gas, enough to fuel power plants with a capacity of 5,000 megawatts (MW).

According to recent statements made by Abdul-Ghani, TotalEnergies would carry out gas developments in south Iraq in two phases, with completion expected in four to five years.

Phase 1 will generate 300 million cubic feet per day when completed in three years, according to the Iraqi Oil Minister, while Phase 2 will generate a similar amount within a period of eighteen months.

Phoenix Finance, AMWAL Announce Strategic Service in Iraq

Phoenix Finance Partners (PFP), an established financial strategic advisory service firm, and Amwal Electronic Payment Services (AMWAL), a Visa and MasterCard issuer, processor, and acquirer, have signed a strategic services deal.

This agreement, signed by Hussain Qaragholi, Managing Partner of PFP, and Ghaith Bayayda, CEO of AMWAL, marks the start of a strategic cooperation in Iraq's thriving electronic payments market.



Iraq signs agreement with Lukoil to Increase West Qurna-2 Oilfield Production

The Russian oil company, Lukoil, said that it signed an agreement with Iraq to improve conditions in the West Qurna-2 oilfield and extend a service contract for ten years.

Lukoil explained that the agreement will gradually double the production capacity of the oilfield. The West Qurna-2 oilfield is located in the southern part of Iraq, 65 kilometers northwest of Basra, and is considered one of the largest oilfields in the world.

According to company data, the primary recoverable reserves in the oilfield are about 14 billion barrels.





30% of electrical interconnection between Iraq and GCC completed



The CEO of the GCC Interconnection Authority (GCCIA), Ahmed Al-Ebrahim, announced that 30 percent of the GCC-Iraq Electrical Interconnection Project has been completed.

Al-Ebrahim, at a celebration of World Quality Week held by the GCCIA in the Saudi city of Dammam, illustrated that the project is scheduled to be completed in 2024, adding that the Authority created a comprehensive program to keep an eye on the electrical connection project's quality with Iraq, according to Asharq Al-Awsat.

Iraqi President Reviews Industrial, Agricultural, Irrigation Projects In Saudi Jazan

The Iraqi President, Abdul Latif Rashid, visited the Saudi region of Jazan on Monday to review industrial, agricultural, and irrigation projects.

Rashid was accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fuad Hussein; the Iraqi Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Safia Al-Suhail; the Saudi Minister of Commerce, Majid Al-Qasabi; and the Saudi Ambassador to Iraq, Abdul-Aziz Al-Shammari, according to a statement issued by the Iraqi Presidency.



Iraqi President Encourages Foreign Firms to Invest in Iraqi



The Iraqi President, Abdul Latif Rashid, confirmed on Sunday that Iraq is eager to establish balanced relations with in the region and worldwide, calling on foreign companies and businessmen to invest in the Iraqi market.

Rashid's remarks were in a reception held by the Iraqi embassy in Azerbaijan, where heads of diplomatic missions, ambassadors, Azerbaijani ministers, parliamentarians, and officials attended.

The Iraqi President stated that the country's top priorities include maintaining security and stability, offering services to its people, maintaining its infrastructure, and raising economic and investment levels to raise living standards.

Saudi Arabia's Northern Region Cement Co to Develop \$139m Cement Plant in Iraq



Northern Region Cement Co. of Saudi Arabia inked an agreement with Germany's KHD Humboldt Wedag on November 4 to develop a production facility in Iraq. A yearly cement production rate of 1.32 million tons is anticipated for the cement plant.

The 16-month deal is for \$139 million (SAR 521.2 million), per a Tadawul release from Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi corporation stated that there are no affiliates and that the venture will be funded entirely by corporate funds.

JP Morgan Lends Iraq \$257 Million to Maintain Power Facilities

The Iraqi Minister of Finance, Taif Sami, signed an agreement with JP Morgan Chase & Co. to finance a maintenance project for power plants. The agreement was signed in partnership with General Electric (GE).

The project will contribute effectively to increasing the efficiency of power plants in Iraq, which will raise energy production, close the gap between supply and demand for energy, and fulfill the demands of the people throughout the country.



Embassy of Iraq

November 2023

Embassy - newsletter special addition on Palestine



Dear Compatriots and Friends,

We are witnessing a genocide and grave humanitarian crisis against the Palestinian people, through targeting civilians in residential areas, places of worship, and healthcare facilities by Israeli occupation.

Neglecting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people only fuels more violence, extremism, and instability in both the region and the world.

In addition, Injustice cannot lead to lasting peace, and true security and the ending of violence can only be achieved by addressing their root causes which are the occupation and discriminatory policies.

The international community has the responsibility to prevent and protect Palestinians in Gaza from atrocity crimes, committed by the Israeli occupation.

With my best wishes,

Mohammad Jaafar al-Sadr

Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



Iraq Warns of Regional War as Palestine-Israel Conflict Continues



The Iraqi deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fuad Hussein, warned of the outbreak of regional war, if an immediate ceasefire and hold of hostilities does not implemented .

In a speech he delivered at the 7th ambassadors conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hussein said that the government is working on keeping Iraq away from war, emphasizing that the war is threatening the whole region.

PM Al-Sudani Meets US Secretary of State

PM al Sudani received in Baghdad Mr Antony Blinkin US Secretary of State.

The deteriorating humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people in Gaza strip was addressed, highlighting the importance of coordinating efforts to deliver essential supplies such as food, water, medical care, and other assistance to meet their humanitarian needs.

H.E reiterated Iraq's steadfast and principled stance against the Israeli aggression on Gaza, emphasizing the urgent need for a ceasefire and the reopening of border crossings to prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis, which has tragically affected civilians, mainly women and children.



Iraq Donates 10 Million Liters Of Fuel to Gaza Hospitals

The Iraqi government announced that it has decided to supply hospitals in the Gaza Strip with gasoline fuel (10 million liters), in solidarity with the Palestinians, who are living in critical conditions because of the ongoing Israeli entity bombing and aggression.

The decision was made to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people in Gaza, who are facing aggression and siege by the Israeli occupation for decades.





Washington Commends Iraq's Efforts to Send Humanitarian Aid to Gaza



The US Ambassador to Iraq, Alina Romanowski, commended the efforts of the Iraqi government to send the third shipment of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

PM Al-Sudani Receives a Phone Call from the Canadian PM

Prime Minister Mohammed S. Al-Sudani received a call from Mr. Justin Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada. They discussed bilateral relations, as well as, the current situation in the Gaza Strip and the worsening humanitarian conditions.

Al-Sudani reiterated Iraq's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause, emphasizing the Palestinians' right to live with dignity on their own land. He strongly condemned the ongoing aggression against Gaza, including the targeting of hospitals and civilians, particularly women and children that caused the death of more than 15000 innocent civilian. He also expressed deep concern about the tightened siege, which deprives them of basic necessities like food and medicine.



Al-Sudani named "Gaza" To a New Bridge In Baghdad



Prime Minister Muhammad Shiaa Al-Sudani named (Gaza) to one of the new bridges in Baghdad in solidarity with the Palestinian people.



UNSC Adopts Resolution For 'Humanitarian Pauses' in Palestine

The UN Security Council has passed a resolution, sponsored by Malta, calling for immediate and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip. This resolution aims to facilitate aid delivery, medical evacuations, and the safeguarding of civilians, particularly children. The resolution, adopted by 12 votes in favor, zero against, and three abstentions (Russia, the United States, and the United Kingdom).



Iraq Condemns Israel's Attack on Jabalia Camp in Gaza



The Iraqi Foreign Ministry mentioned in a statement that it strongly condemns the inhumane aggression of the Israeli occupation on the Jabalia camp in the besieged Gaza Strip, which resulted in the death and injury of many innocent civilians.

Ambassador Al-Sadr participates in the International Day of Solidarity with the

H.E Ambassador Muhammad Jaafar al-Sadr participated in the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which was held by the Arab League office in London, in Westminster Hall, which witnessed the first meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in 1946.

The speakers unanimously agreed on the heinous crimes committed by the occupying Israeli entity against the Palestinians, the gross violations of human rights and international law. The speakers called for an immediate ceasefire and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

