



Dear Compatriots and Friends,

The arts and culture remain an important aspect of Iraq's heritage and legacy. It was with great pleasure that we were able to celebrate various Iraqi artists, most of whom are women, especially with the occasion of International Women's Day.

As we welcome the spring equinox, we wish for a prosperous season ahead as we continue to build stronger ties with our fellow nations around the world and witness several projects flourish.

With my best wishes,

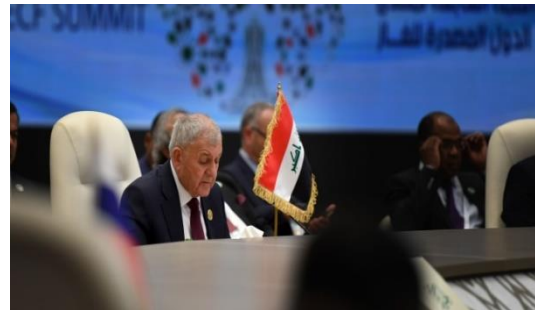
Mohammad Jaafar al-Sadr

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

Addressing the GECF, President Rashid Lauds Progress Toward Launching Gas Projects Across Iraq

02/03/2024

President of the Republic of Iraq Abdul Latif Jamal Rashid attended on March 2nd, 2024, the seventh summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) in Algiers. In his address, President Rashid highlighted the efforts of Iraq to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring energy security.



“Our national vision of the gas industry has been based on the concept and outcome of COP28 because the gas industry can play a crucial role in the energy transformation process, it is essential that it is incorporated into the country's plans and objectives,” said President Rashid.

He added that Iraq is currently undertaking the first tender for the implementation of carbon reduction projects funded by carbon bonds, for a gas combustion project east of Baghdad.

Iraqi PM discusses cooperation with IFC

05/03/2024



The Iraqi PM Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani, reviewed prospects for cooperation between Iraq and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), one of the World Bank's institutions. Al-Sudani received a delegation from the IFC, headed by the IFC's Vice President for Middle East Affairs, Hala Sheikh Ruhu, where she emphasized that the Iraqi government is continuing with economic reforms and measures to improve the investment climate.

The Iraqi PM indicated that the government encourages non-oil industries, gives the private sector more influence, and implements initiatives that increase the country's gross domestic product (GDP). Al-Sudani urged the IFC to establish a training centre in Iraq that focuses on developing banking operations, preparing economic project models. He highlighted the importance of supporting the Development Road project and the renovation of Baghdad International Airport.

Iraqi FM Fuad Hussein Participation in Antalya Forum

01-03/03/2024



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, participated in the Third Antalya Diplomacy Forum, which took place for the period 01-03 March, 2024, under the theme “Advancing Diplomacy in Times of Turmoil”, under the auspices of Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey, and with the attendance of

heads of states and governments, ministers from more than 100 countries.

The Palestinian cause was the centre of the discussion in most meetings, to which the Minister stressed Iraq’s firm stance on the necessity of a ceasefire, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people, and supporting UNRWA. In addition to discussing regional and international issues of common concern, conflicts in the region, and seeking appropriate ways to reach effective diplomatic solutions.

Deputy Prime Minister And Foreign Minister Concludes His Participation in Council of the Arab League by Emphasizing Iraq’s Absolute Solidarity with Palestinian People

06/03/2024



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, headed the Iraqi delegation participating in the 161st regular Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level, which was held on March 6th, 2024 in Cairo.

In his speech he stressed Iraq in supporting the resilience of the Palestinian people, who are facing policies of revenge and collective punishment by the “Israeli” occupying forces in Gaza on a daily basis, and hinders reaching a fair and lasting solution to the Palestinian cause, stressing the Republic of Iraq’s absolute solidarity with the Palestinian people in achieving their ambitions, and their right to self-determination.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister at International Women's Day Celebration: The Ministry Is Proud of Having 677 Women Working to Enhance the Position Of Iraq

10/03/2024



The Foreign Ministry organized a celebration on the International Women's Day in the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Fuad Hussein.

Minister Hussein, congratulated the Ministry's female staff from both diplomatic and administrative departments, pointing out that the Ministry has always celebrates this day every year, not only for the

purpose of highlighting the role of women in our society, but also as a reminder of their efforts, achievements, and ability to accomplish targets and noble goals of Iraq's political, social and economic orientation, which reflect growth and prosperity on future generations, expressing his gratitude and appreciation for women's diplomatic efforts, and emphasized on supporting them.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein Meets US Secretary of State in Washington

27/03/2024

On Tuesday, March 26, 2024, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Fuad Hussein, met with his American counterpart Mr. Antony J. Blinken, as part of a series of meetings held by H.E in Washington with officials of the US administration.

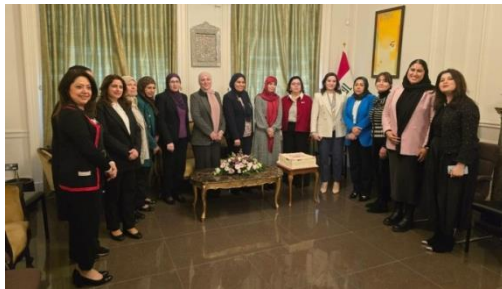


Secretary Blinken welcomed this visit and stated that he is looking forward to His Excellency the Prime Minister Muhammad Shia Al-Sudani's visit to Washington to meet President Biden in a few weeks' time, as well as holding the meeting of the Higher Coordinating Committee, which is an important part of the strategic framework agreement that

guides the comprehensive relations between the two countries, stressing that Iraq is an important critical partner for the stability of the region. His Excellency Mr. Fuad Hussein expressed his thanks for the warm reception, and indicated that this day's discussions will include various topics related to bilateral relations, and the continuing Iraqi-American partnership in fighting terrorism and building the Iraqi economy.

The Embassy of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom celebrates International Women's Day

08/03/2024



Under the patronage of Mrs. Nahida Melhem Al-Sadr, wife of the Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom, the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom held a celebration on the 8th of March the International Women's Day at Embassy in London.

Iraq's Permanent Representative to International Maritime Organization Meets Secretary General of IMO

11/03/2024



The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq to the International Maritime Organization, Ambassador Muhammad Jaafar Al-Sadr, met IMO Secretary-General, Arsenio Dominguez, at IMO Headquarters in London. The Iraqi Ambassador congratulated Mr. Dominguez for assuming his new position as Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization this year.

Ambassador Al-Sadr deposited two instruments of accession of the Republic of Iraq to IMO treaties which includes the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, 2005. H.E Al-Sadr affirmed Iraq's commitment to complete the ratification of all agreements related to the preservation of the marine environment and maritime safety and security.

Minister of Finance, meets with the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

27/03/2024



The Minister of Finance, Mrs. Taif Sami Muhammad, visited to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London on 03/22/2023, based on the invitation extended to her, during which she met with the President of the Bank, Mrs. Odile Renaud Basso, with the participation of the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom.

Mrs. Basu welcomed Iraq for joining the (EBRD) and stressed that she looks forward to starting investments and programs to reform the Iraqi economy.

H.E the Minister expressed her keenness to enhancing cooperation between the two sides, especially in the field of infrastructure and the reform of banking system, supporting the private sector, renewable energy and the environment, in accordance with the objectives of the government program.



Iraq wins the Confidence of the Arabs, Shawqi Abdel Amir as Director of the Arab World Institute in Paris

01/03/2024



The Board of Directors of the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris unanimously approved the appointment of Iraqi poet Shawqi Abdul Amir as the new director general of the Institute.

In December 2023, the Board of Directors of the Institute unanimously nominated the Iraqi poet Shawqi Abdul Amir, to the position of Director General. Abdul Amir was the only candidate for this position reserved for Arabs under the established protocol that made the presidency for a French and a general administration for an Arab.

Culture opens doors of beauty at the 15th session of the Wasiti Fine Festival in Baghdad

04/03/2024



The Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Fakak Al-Badrani, inaugurated the 15th session of the Al-Wasiti Exhibition and Festival,

Minister Badrani met with the participants, researchers and critics accompanied by the supervisor of the festival.

Badrani stressed that the festival immortalizes one of the artists and calligraphers of the end of the Abbasid era, Yahya al-Wasiti, the creator of immortal miniatures and manuscripts, including the shrines of Hariri.

Iraq exports over 4 million barrels of oil to US in one month

04/03/2024



The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) announced on Monday that Iraq's oil exports to the United States surpassed four million barrels during February. According to the EIA, Iraq's crude oil exports to the United

States in February were nearly 4.38 million barrels, with an average daily shipment of 127,000 barrels. Iraq was the fifth-largest oil supplier to the United States during the past month, following Canada, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, and Brazil, and the second-largest Arab exporter of oil to the United States after Saudi Arabia. Iraq's crude oil exports to the United States in January 2024 were 5.38 million barrels, with an average daily shipment of 173,000 barrels. According to final statistics issued by the State Organization for Marketing of Oil (SOMO), the total exports of crude oil during February were 99,592,311 barrels.

Iraq to be self-sufficient in oil derivatives in two months

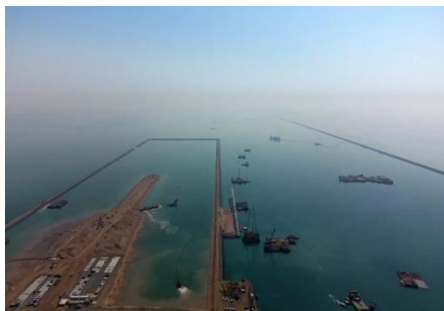
04/03/2024

The Iraqi Prime Minister, Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani, stated that Iraq will be self-sufficient in oil derivatives in less than two months and will cut its annual import bill by more than \$3 billion. Al-Sudani's remarks took place at the Al-Rafidain Dialogue Forum, held in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. The Iraqi government is aiming toward self-sufficiency in different energy-related areas, most notably gas and oil. Al-Sudani declared last year that Iraq will be completely self-sufficient in gas and will entirely end gas flaring and become a gas exporter in three to five years.



Iraqi ports achieve over 65 billion dinars in one month

10/03/2024



The General Company for Ports of Iraq (GCPI) announced that its revenues during February surpassed 65 billion dinars. The Iraqi Ministry of Transport announced that plans have been proposed to develop ports in Iraq, the most important of which is the Al-Faw Grand Port, which is being developed by a Korean company. The Al-Faw Grand Port in southern Iraq is being developed by Daewoo E&C, and the container terminal is part of its first phase that goes into operation, according to Maritime Gateway News. When fully completed in 2038, the Al-Faw Grand Port, with 100 berths that can handle 7.5 million TEU annually, would overtake Dubai's 67-berth Jebel Ali as the largest container port in the Middle East. The \$7 billion logistics project will rival the Suez Canal in Egypt as it will be linked through an overland route to Turkey by rail and would make the port city of Basra a gateway to Europe.

Iraq's Customs starts using ASYCUDA automation system in Umm Qasr

04/03/2024

The Iraqi General Commission for Customs started using the ASYCUDA automation system in the Port of Umm Qasr in southern Iraq. Iraq's Customs said in a statement that the Minister of Finance, Taif Sami, announced starting using the automation system during a ceremony held in the Grand Welcome Yard (GWY). Sami stated that the government's strategic plan to use modern technologies includes the use of automation systems. This plan aims to provide accurate data and information, achieve financial discipline, reduce errors, and achieve efficiency in the use of government resources.



Iraqi PM lays foundation for Al-Ghazlani city in Nineveh

04/03/2024



The Iraqi PM, Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani, laid the foundation for the city of Al-Ghazlani after it was announced for investment. The governor of Nineveh, Abdul Qadir Al-Dakhil, said in a press statement that the project is very large and will contribute to tackling the housing crisis in the city of Mosul. Al-Sudani announced the launch of the new Al-Ghazlani residential city project in the northern Iraqi governorate of Nineveh. The Iraqi cabinet had previously approved the release of the land of Al-Ghazlani Camp for investment, where 3,000 square meters are given to the Iraqi Ministry of Defense and 4,800 square meters are given to the Mosul Municipality to provide plots of land and build residential complexes. Al-Ghazlani Camp is the oldest and largest Iraqi military camp in the city of Mosul. When ISIS captured the city in 2014, it used Al-Ghazlani Camp as a base camp for its militants. The Iraqi PM also inaugurated the Rabia General Hospital in Rabia district in Nineveh governorate, with a capacity of 138 beds. The hospital was previously destroyed during the control of ISIS over Mosul when it was still under construction until it was completed after the liberation of the governorate, at a cost of 23 billion Iraqi dinars (approximately \$17.59 million).



Iraq's NIC deal to utilize flared gas in Nahr Bin Omar gas field

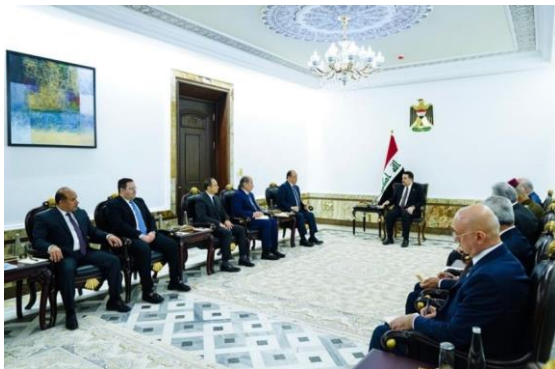
06/03/2024

Iraq's National Investment Commission (NIC) announced that it reached an agreement with a local company to utilize associated gas in one of the gas fields in southern Iraq. The project will be carried out within 36 months at a cost of \$2.6 billion. A license has been issued to the Raban Al-Safina Group of Companies to utilize associated gas in the Nahr Bin Omar gas field in Basra governorate and to reduce gas imports. The gas field will be developed to produce 300 million standard cubic feet of gas in two stages, 150 million cubic feet for each stage.



Iraqi PM calls on Egyptian firms to participate in construction in Iraq

06/03/2024



The Iraqi PM, Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, called on Egyptian companies to invest in residential complexes in Iraq. Al-Sudani's remarks took place during a meeting with a delegation of Egyptian private sector investors, where he stressed the value of developing ties with the Iraqi private sector and continuing to support financial and banking reforms in order to enhance the investment climate. Al-Sudani indicated the Iraqi government's focus on the expansion of the agricultural and industrial sectors, reviewing initiatives such as the approval of almost 40 requests to establish regional pharmaceutical plants. The meeting addressed the growth of residential cities in Iraq and Iraq's need for building materials industries, as well as the significance of completing projects such as the residential city of Bismayah.

Iraqi delegation visits UAE's AD Ports Group with aim to link GCC with Europe via Iraq

07/03/2024

Iraq's Minister of Transport, Razzaq Muhaibas Al-Saadawi, led a to the A D Ports Group in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The meeting was held at Abu Dhabi's Khalifa Port. Discussions at the bilateral meeting focused on launching bilateral cooperation for major projects, like the Iraqi Development Road Project and the Transports Internationaux



Routiers (TIR) International Road Transport System, which aims to link the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Europe via Iraq. "The UAE is one of Iraq's principal trading partners, and through this meeting Iraq looks forward to deepening the economic ties between the two countries," said Al-Saadawi. Iraq is one of the UAE's main commercial partners; in 2023, their combined trade volumes were AED 104 billion, up 13.1% from the previous year. "Our meeting today at Khalifa Port represents a progressive step towards strengthening the regional and global position of both the UAE and Iraq," said Al Mazrouei.

Iraqi PM inaugurates two rehabilitated Iraqi factories contracted with two British companies

10/03/2024



In a pioneering step towards strengthening Iraqi-British economic relations, especially in the industrial-agricultural sector, the Prime Minister, Mr. Muhammad Shia Al-Sudani, inaugurated the urea fertilizer plant, which was rehabilitated by the British company (Newport), which was suspended from work for several years, and the Dab fertilizer plant, which was

built from scratch by the British company AAA holding, and in partnership with the State Company for Southern Fertilizer Industry/ Ministry of Industry and Minerals, and the two factories were inaugurated during the visit of the Prime Minister. Mr. Al-Sudani to Basra Governorate on Saturday, 09/03/2024.



He considered these two factories "important strategic projects that will contribute to covering the needs of the Ministry of Agriculture, consolidating the requirements of national food security, and expanding the areas of land planted with various crops," as the capacity of the urea plant is 1000 tons per day, while the capacity of the Al-Dab factory is 500 thousand tons annually.

There are efforts through the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in the United Kingdom to conclude an executive agreement between the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture and AAA holding for the purpose of developing the agricultural sector through the use of artificial intelligence, especially in determining the quality of fertilizers required and according to the type of soil.

Siemens Energy to convert Iraq's flared gas into fuel in 6 months

20/03/2024

The Iraqi Minister of Electricity, Ziyad Ali Fadel, announced that an agreement had been signed with Siemens Energy to turn flared gas into fuel within six months. The Iraqi Electricity Ministry explained in a statement that Fadel signed the agreement with officials from Siemens Energy in the German capital, Berlin.



According to the agreement, Siemens Energy will turn associated gas in Iraq into electrical energy to meet the needs of Iraqis in a sustainable and safe manner. Fadel confirmed that the agreement is part of the efforts of the Iraqi government to stop gas flaring and use it to generate electricity. The step is a demonstration of the government's dedication to the UNFCCC's (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) resolutions, which aim to provide renewable energy sources and environmental preservation.

The President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens Energy, Christian Bruch, commended the Iraqi government for its efforts in overcoming the obstacles the energy industry has encountered for a long time.

Iraq authorizes new steel factory and airport in Al-Diwaniyah

21/03/2024



As part of a post-war reconstruction plan, Iraq has authorized two projects, including the development of a new non-military airport and a steel mill.

The two projects are planned to be constructed in Al-Diwaniyah governorate. A statement released by the Prime Minister's Office revealed that the contractors for these projects will be chosen by the National Investment Commission. Iraq has been actively constructing new seaports and airports to increase its logistical capabilities. The Director General of the State Company for Iron and Steel (SCIS), Abbas Hayal, said that the government intends to sign a contract with a major Chinese company to build a steel plant in Iraq.



Embassy of the Republic of Iraq

March 2024



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 a lasting peace, and true security and the ending of violence can only be achieved by addressing their root causes which are the occupation, mass killings and discriminatory policies.

The international community has the responsibility to prevent and protect Palestinians in Gaza from atrocities and crimes against humanity, 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 supports UNRWA with \$25 million

07/03/2024

The Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fuad Hussein, announced that Iraq decided to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) with \$25 million to be able to continue its work after western countries stopped funding the relief agency. Hussein's remarks took place on the sidelines of the Arab League Council's 161st session at the ministerial level, held in Cairo. Hussein said in a press statement that Iraq's position is clear in supporting the Palestinian people, indicating that several Western countries had stopped supporting UNRWA, which was a serious blow to the organization. The Iraqi Foreign Minister called on both Arab and non-Arab countries to continue supporting the agency, arguing that its failure to support the Palestinian refugees undermines the cause of the Palestinian people. Iraq's Foreign Minister stated that "We deemed it necessary to announce this decision and that other countries should do the same" . He emphasized that the war on Gaza represents a violation of international laws, especially international humanitarian law, noting that the policies of some Western countries towards the Palestinian case are strange.

