

Embassy Newsletter

Issue: 26

April 2024



Dear Compatriots and Friends,

As we strengthen our bilateral relations with various nations, we continue to focus on our country and strive for more culturally significant strides. We anticipate the flourishing of many projects which will ultimately lead to and even more stable Iraq.

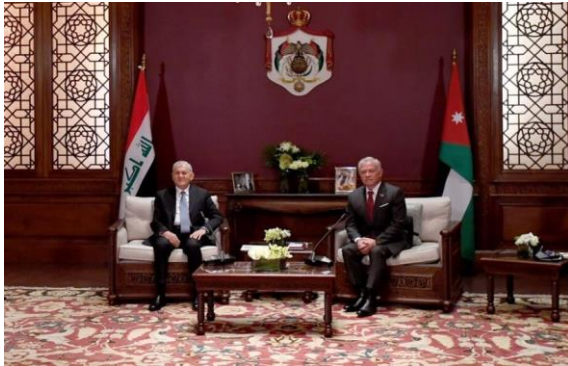
With my best wishes,

Mohammad Jaafar al-Sadr

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

Iraqi President discusses regional developments with the King of Jordan

16/04/2024



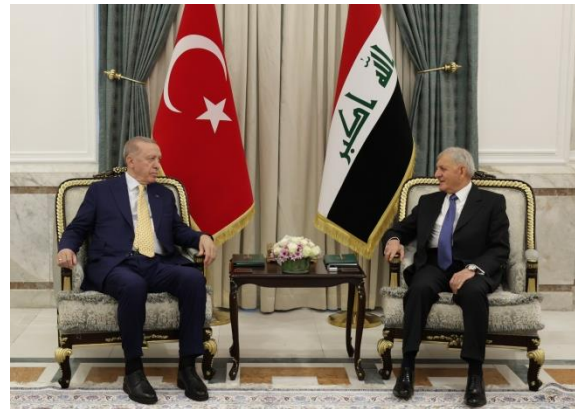
The Iraqi President, Abdul Latif Rashid, held bilateral discussions with the King of Jordan, King Abdullah II, at Basman Palace in Jordan, in the presence of the Crown Prince of Jordan, Prince Hussein bin Abdullah. The discussions highlighted the need to strengthen bilateral relations and expand cooperation between the two countries to promote economic partnership

and development sectors. The two sides also called on the international community to stop the Israeli violations of the international law, mass killings, racial discrimination practices, and collective punishment against the Palestinian people.

Baghdad Welcomes Turkish President's Historic Visit

22/04/2024

President of the Republic of Iraq Abdul Latif Jamal Rashid received Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Baghdad on what has been described as a “historic visit”. The two leaders discussed matters related to water-sharing, economy and security, and exchanged views on viable solutions to longstanding issues between the two neighbours. Rashid stated that in order for Iraq to meet its water



needs, it is necessary to ensure that Iraq receives its fair share of water, activate joint committees, utilize expertise in managing water and building dams, and coordinate and consult on projects and facilities being constructed along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Erdogan concurred that the Development Road initiative is vital for the countries of the region. “The Turkish government intends to continue to offer assistance to Iraq to ensure that the project is completed as soon as possible and that the region has achieved its economic and development objectives,” he said.



Iraq's PM met President Joe Biden at the White House

15/04/2024



The Iraqi Prime Minister, Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani, met with the US President, Joe Biden, in the White House in Washington DC. Al-Sudani stated that Iraq is keen to transition from a military alliance to a comprehensive partnership with the United States, emphasizing the significance of his visit to Washington at this delicate juncture. Al-Sudani noted that the

battle against ISIS served as the cornerstone of collaboration between Iraq and the United States, confirming that Iraq is recovering and witnessing advancements in service projects. The Iraqi PM indicated his government's commitment to the outcomes of the Higher Coordination Committee (HCC) between Iraq and the United States. President Biden explained that the partnership between Iraq and the United States is extremely important and praised Al-Sudani's efforts for promoting and reforming the Iraqi economy and achieving energy independence.

PM Al-Sudani Met U.S. Secretary of State in Washington D.C.

15/04/2024

PM Al-Sudani met with U.S. Secretary of State Mr. Antony Blinken. The meeting, held at Al-Sudani's residence in Washington, D.C., focused on establishing long-term relations, activating the Strategic Framework Agreement, and the Joint Higher Coordinating Committee. Discussions explored economic aspects and investment opportunities for American



companies and the prospects for expanding partnerships with the Iraqi private sector. Al-Sudani emphasised that the Strategic Framework Agreement serves as a roadmap for developing future relations between Iraq and the United States. Blinken welcomed Al-Sudani's visit, affirming the U.S. administration's support for Iraq's positions in the region and its commitment to a strong, democratic Iraq that contributes to regional and international stability. Blinken supported Iraq's development and reform initiatives, particularly harnessing natural gas and energy sector and infrastructure development, expressing hope that the visit would lead to increased cooperation between the two countries.

The US Metropolitan Museum of Art returns Sumerian artefact to Iraq

17/04/2024



The Iraqi Prime Minister, Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani, received a Sumerian artefact dating from the third millennium B.C. from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The artefact was handed over by representatives of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in the presence of the Iraqi Ambassador to the United States, Nazar Al Khirullah and a group of journalists. The historic artefact which was acquired in 1955 and has been a part of its collection ever since and is believed to date from between 2900 and 2600 B.C. has been in the museum's holdings for about 70 years.

PM Al-Sudani Met Saudi Crown Prince, Mohammed Bin Salman, in Riyadh

28/04/2024

PM Mohammed S. Al-Sudani met with the Saudi Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral relations and increasing cooperation under the Iraqi-Saudi Coordination Council, which has led to several arrangements in various fields. PM Al-Sudani expressed Iraq's eagerness to expand economic cooperation with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to enhance growth and create new opportunities across diverse economic sectors, benefiting both countries and their peoples. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman welcomed PM Al-Sudani, appreciating his participation in the World Economic Forum special meeting and affirming Saudi Arabia's commitment to advancing relations with Iraq. Both sides condemned the on-going violence and humanitarian violations by the Israeli occupation forces and stressing the need for concerted efforts to halt the conflict affecting regional and international stability.



The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom met with the British Shadow Minister for Middle East Affairs

18/04/2024

The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom, Mr. Muhammad Jaafar Al-Sadr, met with the Minister of Middle East Affairs (in the British Shadow Government), Wayne David, in his office in the British Parliament on 17/04/2024. Minister David praised Iraq's balanced role in the region, thanks to its history and balanced relations, he also stressed the importance of utilizing this role to achieve stability and development in Iraq. The Ambassador urged the Labor Party to adopt more supportive positions of Middle East issues, such as an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and to stop supporting the Israeli entity, stressing Iraq's firm positions regarding the situation in Gaza and the region. The Ambassador also stressed the importance of communication and exchanging views in order to formulate effective international positions that contribute to reducing violence and achieving stability in the region, stressing the need to support Iraq in a way that makes it able to play an effective role in this field.



Ambassador Al-Sadr received the Iraqi Minister of Agriculture

26/04/2024



The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom, Mr. Muhammad Jaafar Al-Sadr, received the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Iraq, Dr. Abbas Jabr Al-Maliki, in London on 26/04/2024, with the attendance of former Iraqi Minister of Agriculture, Mr Akram Al Hakim, General Director of the Agricultural Equipment Department, and Engineer Talib Al-Kaabi and other diplomats. The delegation visited the UK on an official mission that included a number of meetings, including: meeting with the British Minister of Trade and Investment; meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of State for Middle Eastern Affairs in the British shadow government; meeting with the Smart Agriculture Committee in The Iraqi-British Business Council; a visit to the Date Palm Development Company in southwest England.

Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom received Chairman of APPG for Iraq

30/04/2024



The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom, Mr. Muhammad Jaafar Al-Sadr received a British Member of Parliament for the Labor Party (Chairman of the All-Parties Parliamentary Group for Iraq), Mr. Khaled Mahmoud, in his office at the embassy on 30/04/2024. During the meeting, Ambassador Al-Sadr explained the positive developments that Iraq is witnessing, especially Iraq's signing of an agreement with Qatar, UAE and Turkey regarding the Development Road Project and Iraq's vision in developing its relations with neighboring countries and the world based on common interests, in particular those that align with plans for economic

development. The Ambassador also expressed to Mr. Khalid, Iraq's firm position against the escalation witnessed in the war on Gaza, and its condemnation of the genocide to which the people of Gaza are subjected. MP Khaled Mahmoud expressed his appreciation for the role that Iraq plays in the region, based on its civilizational and cultural weight among the countries of the world and its position in the Islamic world and the region.

Prime Minister's envoy for Cultural Affairs visits a group of pioneers of Iraqi culture, literature and art in UK

14/04/2024

The Advisor to the Prime Minister for Cultural Affairs, Dr. Arif Al-Saadi, accompanied by representatives of the Iraqi Embassy in London, visited a group of pioneers of Iraqi culture, literature, and art in Britain, in recognition of their great contributions. The gathering was held in attendance of Dr. Abdul Wahed Lulua, Dr. Salah Niazi, Dr. Saadi Al-Hadithi, Diaan Al-Azzawi, Faisal Al-Luaibi. The PM envoy handed over letters of appreciation from PM Al –Sudani.



Babylon Festival for World Cultures and Art: the most prominent cultural event in Iraq

19/04/2024



Under the patronage of PM Al-Sudani, the Babylon Festival for World Cultures launched its 11th version in participation of many culturally significant and official figures. The opening ceremony witnessed an art exhibition that included a number of paintings with the

participation of a group of artists and many poets and other cultural events honoring the Palestinian culture.

Iraq ranked as the fourth-best country for foreign direct investment

09/04/2024

Iraq was rated as one of the top emerging markets for investment in 2024 and as the fourth-best country for foreign direct investment, according to the latest study conducted by FDI Intelligence, which specializes in global investment activity. The classification is based on several factors, including gross domestic product (GDP) growth, the inflation rate, the growth of capital expenditure in foreign direct investment, and the growth of foreign direct investment projects. The study revealed that Iraq's GDP grew by 2.9%, the country's inflation rate increased to 3.6 %, foreign direct investment capital expenditures increased by 371 %, and foreign direct investment projects grew by 95%.



Power China to build one of the world's largest desalination plants at Al-Faw Port

01/03/2024



In Iraq's Al-Faw Port, China's state-owned Power Construction Corporation of China (Power China) has been given the approval to construct one of the biggest seawater desalination facilities in the world. As part of the project, a power plant to power the desalination facility and provide electricity to surrounding

communities will be built. As per Power China, the new facility would have a daily production capacity of one million cubic meters and provide potable water to around four million Iraqi citizens residing in Basra. The large-scale project was moved from the Ministry of Construction and Housing to the Basra Governorate and will be funded by Iraq's federal government. It is being constructed in partnership with the Al Rida Investment Group in Iraq.

Qatar's Estithmar Holding signs with Iraqi Ministry of Health to manage hospital in Iraq

05/04/2024

Iraq's Ministry of Health and Elegancia Healthcare W.L.L., a subsidiary of Estithmar Holding in Qatar, have reached a strategic agreement for the management and operation of the 492-bed Al-Nasiriyah Teaching Hospital in Iraq's Dhi Qaar Governorate. The agreement intends to increase Al-Nasiriyah Teaching Hospital's operational effectiveness, service quality, and range of medical specializations as well as raising healthcare standards. The project provides a wide range of healthcare services, including medical treatments, hospital operations and maintenance, supply chain management, human resource management, and technological assistance.



Two Iraqi fintechs listed in Forbes' Top 50 Fintechs in the Middle East

06/04/2024



Two well-known fintechs, Iraq Wallet (ZainCash Iraq) and NEO Pay Iraq, have secured coveted spots among Forbes' Top 50 Fintech Companies in the Middle East, demonstrating evidence of the financial technology sector in Iraq's rapidly developing creativity. With the ability to handle both local and international money transfers, bill payment, cash-in/out services, mobile recharge, and QR payments, Iraq Wallet—powered by ZainCash Iraq—has quickly established itself as a one-stop shop for financial solutions. Significantly, Forbes Middle East announces the remarkable achievement of 1.2 million app downloads, supported by a strong network of 10,000 agents positioned tactically throughout Iraq.

Iraq and Saudi Arabia sign 12 MoUs for investment projects

07/04/2024



The Iraqi Ministry of Planning announced that it had signed 12 memorandums of understanding with Saudi Arabia for investment projects. The Iraqi Planning Ministry mentioned that it signed memorandums of understanding with 12 Saudi companies, under the auspices of Planning Minister Muhammad Ali Tamim, to promote cooperation in several investment projects. The Iraqi Federation of Industries (IFI) stated that the commercial attaché in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, expressed interest in setting up a trading hub to exhibit Iraqi products in Saudi Arabia.



Embassy of the Republic of Iraq

April 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 sends 10 million litres of fuel to Gaza

08/04/2024



The Iraqi Prime Minister, Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani, said that the cabinet agreed to send ten million litres of fuel to the Gaza Strip in support of the Palestinian people.

Al-Sudani added in a statement that Iraq has also committed to receiving injured Palestinians from Gaza and treating them in both public and private hospitals.

The fuel shortage paralyzed hospitals, water networks, bakeries, and relief operations in the Gaza Strip.

In the Gaza Strip, the lack of fuel made bakeries, hospitals, water systems, and relief operations inoperable.

According to Palestinian health officials, since October 7th , the Israeli entity military operation in Gaza has resulted in at least 33,175 Palestinian deaths and 75,886 injuries.