



Embassy Newsletter

Issue: 27

May 2024



Dear Compatriots and Friends,

Iraq continues to build its bilateral relations with fellow nations around the globe while prospering in the financial and developmental sectors. With many projects and Memorandums of Understanding, we can expect to witness the country flourish in all forms.

With my best wishes,

**Mohammad Jaafar al-Sadr
Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

Presidency News:

Iraqi President emphasises strategic alliance's value with NATO

21/05/2024



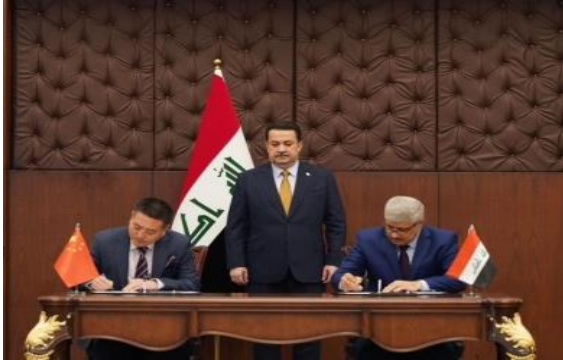
The Iraqi President, Abdul Latif Rashid, emphasised the value of bilateral cooperation and the strategic alliance with NATO in advising and enhancing the military and combat capabilities of the Iraqi security forces. Rashid's remarks took place during his meeting with the commander of the NATO Mission in Iraq (NMI), Lieutenant General Jose Antonio

Aguero Martinez, whose duties in Iraq have finished, Major General Cas Schreurs, the new force commander of the NMI, and the NATO Ambassador to Iraq, Ronald Sonnemans, according to the Iraqi Presidency. After completing his studies at the US Army War College and serving as a battalion commander, Schreurs held several positions, including Chief of the Army Staff's Integration Department, Head of the Defense Staff's Integrated Planning and Coordination, and Personal Advisor to the Netherlands Chief of Defense. The Iraqi President stated that the security forces are now capable of handling a variety of security challenges, indicating that the security services in Iraq are actively continuing their tasks to pursue remnants of terrorist groups, establish security and stability, and ensure the safety of citizens and expressed that Iraq is eager to maintain its growing relations regionally and internationally, noting that the country has retrieved its international status and its pivotal role in bringing points of view closer between countries. Martinez expressed his satisfaction in working with the Iraqi security forces, confirming that the capabilities of the Iraqi security forces have grown.

Prime Minister News:

Prime Minister Sponsors Signing Ceremony Of Contract For FAO Refinery Investment Project

15/05/2024



Prime Minister Mohamed Shia Al-Sudani sponsored the contract signing ceremony for the Faw Refinery Investment Project on Wednesday.

The Prime Minister's Media Office said in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that "Prime Minister

Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani sponsored the signing ceremony of the contract for the Faw investment refinery project, with a capacity of 300,000 barrels / day, within the projects of the Great Faw Port."

Ministry News:

Iraq and Tunisia Signs Memorandums of Understanding in Several Fields

13/05/2024



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein and his Tunisian counterpart, Mr. Nabil Ammar, were present at the signing of Memorandums of Understanding between Iraq and Tunisia in Baghdad. These MoUs, a testament to the growing partnership, will contribute significantly to developing economic and

investment cooperation paths between the Republic of Iraq and the Republic of Tunisia. They will not only activate the strategic partnership of cooperation to achieve shared aspirations but also enhance the levels of bilateral cooperation towards more excellent joint action that will benefit both countries and the two brotherly peoples. Furthermore, they will boost investment activity by investors of the two countries, ensuring the achievement of economic cooperation and integration between the two sides.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Meets Secretary General of League of Arab States and Saudi FMs (separately) in Manama

15/05/2024



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein met with Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, on the sidelines of the foreign ministers' preparatory meeting for the Council of the Arab League at the 33rd Arab Summit, held in Bahrain.

Minister Fuad Hussein expressed the Iraqi government's readiness to host the 34th Arab Summit, which will be held in Baghdad, welcoming the Arab brothers to their second country, Iraq. Mr. Fuad Hussein, discussed the latest regional and international developments with the Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs deliver Iraq's speech at the Arab-Chinese Cooperation Forum

30/05/2024

On Thursday, 30/05/2024, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Fouad Hussein, delivered the speech of the Republic of Iraq at the opening session of the Tenth Session of the Ministerial Meeting of the Arab-Chinese Cooperation Forum, held in the capital, Beijing. In it, he proudly pointed out that Arab-Chinese relations have not just reached strategic levels, but have also made significant strides. The volume of trade exchange between China and the Arab countries has increased from approximately \$25 billion when the forum was established in 2004 to roughly \$400 billion in 2024, a testament to the strength and growth of our partnership.

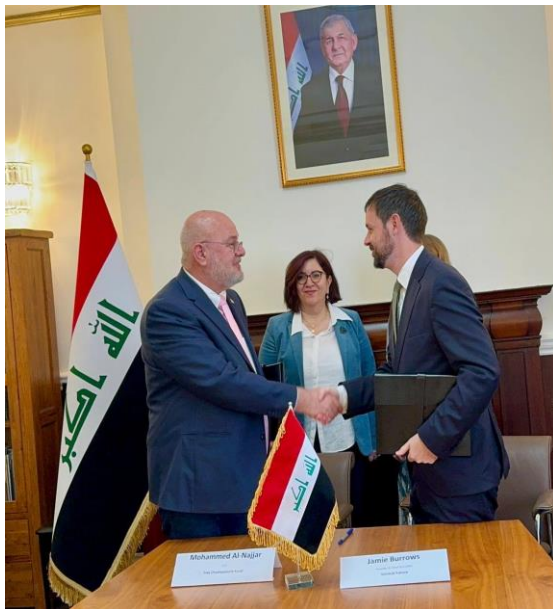


The Minister stressed that the strategic partnership between the Arab world and the People's Republic of China opens broader areas for economic cooperation based on the foundations of comprehensive cooperation and development and discussed the possibility of benefiting from the experiences and expertise of the Chinese side in various fields. Given the significant challenges that the world in general and the Arab region, in particular, suffer from due to climate change and the worsening problem of desertification, there has become an urgent need to expand cooperation mechanisms with China to include benefiting from modern expertise and technologies.

Embassy News:

Advisor To The Prime Minister For Investment Affairs Signs A Memorandum Of Understanding With (Vertical Future)

17/05/2024



Advisor to the Prime Minister for Investment Affairs/Executive Director of the Iraq Fund for Development, Mr. Mohammed Al-Najjar, signed a memorandum of understanding with the CEO of Vertical Future, Mr. Jamie Burrows, a specialist in the field of agricultural technology, at the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom in London, on Friday, 17/05/2024.

The MoU aims to expand cooperation to develop the agricultural system in Iraq through the design, manufacture and construction of independent vertical farms.

The Prime Minister's Advisor for Investment Affairs meets with a number of officials from the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development

15/05/2024

Advisor to the Prime Minister for Investment Affairs/Executive Director of the Iraq Fund for Development, Mr. Muhammad Al-Najjar, met with a number of officials from the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development on 05/14/2024. Mr. Al-Najjar





also met (separately) with the Head of the Middle East and North Africa Department, Ambassador Stephen Hickey, Joint Director of the Economic Department on Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula, Mr. Evan Parks and Deputy Head of the Economic Department for the Middle East and North Africa, Mr. Richard Earlbank.

Representatives of the embassy attended the meetings: First Secretary Hashem Bahr Al-Ulum, and First Secretary Muhammad Hamid Ahmed.

The Embassy of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom organises an economic seminar on investment opportunities in Iraq

15/05/2024



In continuation of the efforts of the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom to open up to members of the Iraqi community in Britain by holding various events, and as an extension of the Energies Forum organized by the Embassy with the participation of (400) individuals in the British capital (London) last January, to

highlight successful experiences in Iraq, encouraging Iraqi competencies and innovators to contribute to building their homeland and encouraging investment in Iraq. In cooperation with the Iraqi Innovators Platform, the Embassy held a symposium entitled: “Investing in Iraq - A Look at Technology and Real Estate Development,” in the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce hall in London on 15/05/2024.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom meets with the Director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the British Foreign Office

15/05/2024

The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom, Mr. Muhammad Jaafar Al-Sadr, met with the Director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the British Foreign Office, Mr. Stephen Hickey, at the Ministry’s headquarters on 15/05/2024. Mr. Hickey praised the stability that Iraq is witnessing at the political and security levels, despite the challenges that the region is going through and their impact on the regional atmosphere,



stressing that his country is seeking with all its efforts to reduce the level of violence and is working with all parties to reach a formula that ends tension in the region. Ambassador Al-Sadr stressed that Iraq seeks to export a new image of itself to the international community by focusing on economic and investment partnerships and framing its relations with countries of the world through common interests, stressing that the political and security stability that the country is witnessing is the result of Iraq's success in investing in its relations.

Culture:

Iraq's U23 football team advances to Olympics in Paris

03/05/2024

Iraq advanced to the Olympics in Paris with a 2-1 victory over Indonesia in the U23 Asian Cup third-place playoff on Thursday. Iraq defeated Indonesia in a thrilling U23 Asian Cup third-place playoff that also served as an Olympic qualifying match, guaranteeing their spot in the following Paris Olympics. The Iraqi players and supporters were thrilled to hear the final whistle since they were celebrating a victory and a qualification for the Olympics. It will be the first time the Iraqi squad has competed in the Olympics since 2016.



Rising star: Ali Al-Hamadi's path from Iraq to English football fame



Iraqi football player Ali Al-Hamadi has cemented his legacy by assisting Ipswich Town Football Club to achieve their promotion to the English Premier League for the 2024–25 season—a first for the club in 22 years. Hailing from Maysan, Iraq, his story underscores the power of perseverance, inspiring football enthusiasts across Iraq and the globe. According to Playmaker Stats, he ranked second in the EFL Championship for the best minutes-per-goal ratio among players with at least two goals, cementing his reputation as a goal-scoring sensation. Additionally, Al-Hamadi scored 4 goals in the EFL Championship and 3

goals in the FA Cup. For an unknown sum, Ipswich Town acquired Al-Hamadi from AFC Wimbledon in January 2024.

Switzerland returns three Mesopotamian artefacts to Iraq

25/05/2024

During a ceremony at the Ministry of Culture in Bern, Elisabeth Baume-Schneider handed over a partial statue and two Mesopotamian reliefs to Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein. The three works, which are 1,700 to 2,800 years old, are “of great significance” to Iraq, the ministry stated. Switzerland and Iraq are parties to a UNESCO convention aimed at protecting cultural heritage by banning and preventing illegal imports, exports and transfers of cultural property. Friday’s restitution was the fifth from Switzerland to Iraq since 2005 and “by far the most significant”, the ministry said. While the objects were officially returned to Iraq on Friday, the ministry said they would remain in Switzerland for now to feature in an exceptional exhibit at the ministry through June 7.



Development:

Iraq Exports its First Shipment of Propane

02/05/2024



The Iraqi Oil Ministry stated that the Iraqi Basra Gas Company exported a first shipment of 10,700 tons of propane gas. The Undersecretary for Gas Affairs, Izzat Saber, said in a statement, “The quantity of the shipment amounted to more than 10,700 tons, and it is considered one of the large shipments that are marketed and loaded on the back of specialized tankers.” He pointed out that “this comes within the plans of the ministry and the company to maximize the national production of dry gas and export the surplus of liquid gas (LPG), condensates and other products to global markets to achieve financial revenues.”

Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, Mr. Mohammad Jaafar al-Sadr, addresses letters to various heads of Chambers of Commerce and UK Export Finance urging them to encourage Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) to adjust the travel advice for Iraq.



The Iraqi Minister Of Higher Education And Scientific Research Attends The Signing Of A MoU With King's College London

20/05/2024



The Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Naim Al-Aboudi, attended the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with King's College London, on Monday, 20/05/2024. The MoU included a number of programs related to scientific research, twinning and cultural exchange, and providing a climate of joint cooperation in modern disciplines, especially with regard to artificial intelligence and emerging knowledge spaces.

The Iraqi Minister Of Higher Education And Scientific Research Launches The Academic Bridge Initiative Between Iraq And The United Kingdom

22/05/2024

During his visit to the United Kingdom. The Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Naim Al-Aboudi, launched the initiative of the Academic Bridge Program between Iraq and the United



Kingdom, and handed over an official copy of this to the British Council in London, on Wednesday, 22/05/2024. This came in his speech, which he delivered at the Iraqi-British Universities Forum (Iraq-UK Higher Education Dialogue), where the Minister explained that the possibilities of cooperation between the universities of the two countries are wide and varied in terms of joint research initiatives and academic exchange to develop education programs, especially with regard to the medical and engineering fields, capacity building and keeping pace with global academic trends.

IMO Holds National Workshop For Officials Of Iraqi Maritime Administrations

30/05/2024

As a result of the efforts of the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in the United Kingdom and its Naval Attaché, with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London. The International Maritime Organization (IMO), in cooperation with the Iraqi Ministry of Transport / General Company for Iraqi Ports, held a national workshop for maritime administrations on the application of mandatory auditing for IMSAS member states, which will be held in Basra for the period 24- 30/05/2024.



This workshop also aims to assess the Iraqi maritime sector, as part of efforts to re-include Iraq in the white list of IMO member states, enabling Iraq to re-raise its flag on Iraqi ships, facilitate the entry of Iraqi seafarers to all ports, and enhance the capacity of Iraqi ports to receive ships.



Embassy of the Republic of Iraq

May 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 ~~the~~ **the proper** 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

Iraqi students in Baghdad rally in solidarity for Palestine, US campus protests

03/05/2024

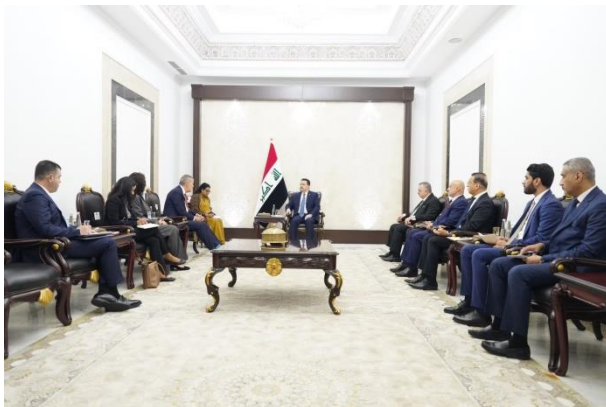


Dozens of Iraqi university students and professors rallied at a Baghdad campus in solidarity with Gaza and pro-Palestinian protests at US universities. Iraqi Education Minister Naeem al-Aboudi expressed his support for the “free voices in universities” around the world, and called for a protest in solidarity with the embattled Gaza Strip.

Students at Al-Nahrain University waved the Palestinian and Iraqi flags and some wore the keffiyeh scarf that has long been a symbol of the Palestinian cause. The Iraqi embassy in Washington called Wednesday for “restraint, calm, respect for human rights and peaceful expression” as unrest over Israel’s war in Gaza simmered on US campuses.

Prime Minister Mr. Muhammad Shiaa Al-Sudani renews Iraq’s support for UNRWA to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians

14/05/2024



The Prime Minister, Mr. Muhammad Shiaa Al-Sudani, received the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), Mr. Philippe Lazzarini, and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, the agency's efforts to provide relief to Palestinians suffering under the brutal bombing of the occupation forces

were reviewed, and the continued provision of aid despite the attacks that targeted the agency's headquarters and the martyrdom of a large number of its workers. Mr. Al-Sudani also reaffirmed Iraq's firm and principled position towards the Palestinian right, indicating that the suffering of the Palestinians will double with the targeting of Rafah, as they no longer have a safe place to seek refuge. Mr. Lazzarini expressed his appreciation for the government’s decision to continue assisting UNRWA. He also praised the role of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and the political and financial support. He reviewed the attacks on UNRWA and the targeting of its headquarters,

and the fact that many of its employees in Palestine face arrest and torture by the occupation authorities with the aim of cutting off this important outlet for humanitarian assistance.

Iraq affirms its unwavering stance on the Palestinian issue

16/05/2024

The Iraqi President, Abdul Latif Rashid, reaffirmed Iraq's unwavering stance on the Palestinian issue during his meeting with his Palestinian counterpart, Mahmoud Abbas, in the Bahraini capital, Manama. The meeting addressed the current situation in the Palestinian territories, the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, and the tragic consequences it has created. Rashid



emphasized the necessity of putting an end to the conflict and giving the Palestinians who remain stranded in the Gaza Strip quick access to humanitarian aid. The Iraqi President indicated that the situation in Palestine has an impact on the whole region and emphasized the need to enhance cooperation and support the Palestinian people in their quest for full rights. The two presidents stressed that the international community and active forces must accept responsibility for the Palestinians and work towards comprehensive and just solutions. Abbas praised Iraq's efforts and its ongoing help to the Palestinian people, expressing the gratitude of the Palestinian government and people for Iraq's historical views in support of the Palestinian cause.

Iraqi humanitarian aid arrives in Gaza

19/05/2024



A new Iraqi food aid convoy arrived for the Palestinians besieged in the Gaza Strip through Jordan. The humanitarian aid, consisting of basic food supplies, was sent in a convoy of 91 trucks and will be distributed to the people in Gaza through humanitarian organisations. Jordan, in partnership with the World Food Program (WFO), Qatar Red Crescent, and other humanitarian organisations, managed

to bring the convoy, which includes donations from the Iraqi people and government, and the leader of the Sadrist movement, Muqtada Al-Sadr, into the Gaza Strip. Last



month, 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.

27 wounded Palestinians from Gaza arrive in Iraq to receive treatment

23/05/2024

The Iraqi Ministry of Health announced the arrival of 27 wounded Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to Iraq to receive treatment. The Health Ministry mentioned in a statement that the first batch of wounded Palestinians arrived in Iraq, coming from Egypt aboard a military aircraft, to receive treatment as part of the 'Help Gaza' campaign launched by the Iraqi government. Ambulances transported 27 wounded Palestinians and their 42 companions to Iraqi hospitals to receive treatment. The Undersecretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Health, Hani Musa Al-Aqabi, and a team of paramedics received the wounded and their companions. Most of the wounded are elderly, women, and children, according to Al-Aqabi.



The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom celebrates an Iraqi doctor who volunteered to treat wounded Palestinians in Gaza

29/05/2024



The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United Kingdom, Mr. Mohammad Jaafar Al-Sadr, received the Iraqi-British specialist in peripheral nerves, bones, trauma, and upper extremities, Dr. Mohammad Taher Kamel Abu Ragheef at the Embassy on 29/05/2024. Ambassador Al-Sadr welcomed the Iraqi doctor, pointing out that what he did in saving hundreds of Palestinians during the three weeks he spent in the Gaza Strip as a volunteer on a medical team at the European Hospital is truly a source of pride for all Iraqis who wish to contribute even a small part to saving their Palestinian brothers from the Israeli aggression.