

R O U N D - U P

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Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs plans social safety net. The Minister of Labor and Social Affairs announced plans to establish a social safety net that will include 5 million Iraqi citizens. The establishment of the net, which will primarily cover unemployed and disabled people, will require a budget of 500 Billion Iraqi Dinars. The minister also said that the law regarding pensions and social insurance for workers will be reviewed.

Al-Mezan

The leather bag manufacturing industry in Iraq is headed for extinction. Competition with cheap imports, lack of modern machinery, high prices for raw materials and the lack of government support led to massive migration of the employees working in this sector to other industries that provide better salaries.

Al-Mezan

Minister of Trade confirms intent of Iraqi Government to activate commercial and economic relations with Syria. In recent years, the volume of trade between Iraq and Syria reached \$ 4 billion.

Al-Safeer

Minister of Municipalities and General Services urges timely completion of infrastructure projects. The minister expressed concern over the negative impact on citizens caused by delayed implementation of infrastructure projects and urged greater attention to overcoming obstacles and speeding up implementation.

Al-Safeer

Kuwaiti enterprises establishing branches in Suleimanya. The Kuwaiti Commercial Bank (KCB) recently inaugurated an office in Suleimanya which will co-ordinate the activities of KCB across Iraq. Another Kuwaiti business - the Kuwaiti Western Company – will soon start functioning in Suleimanya and will implement various projects in Kurdistan Region.

Al-Sabah

Japan funds 3 new generators and a power plant in Semawa city. The Japanese forces have started installing three new generators in Semawa city, each with a capacity of 1.4 MW, and have begun construction of a power plant with a capacity of 60 MW, at a cost of \$120 million. The cost is covered by the Japanese Government.

Al-Sabah

Price of liquid gas on the black market in Kerbala reaches 8,000 Iraqi Dinars per cylinder. However, the supply of liquid gas is so scarce that in some neighborhoods the gas cannot be found even on the black market.

Al-Sabah

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