

## **R O U N D - U P**

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### **ID rate keeps hiking**

The exchange rate of the Iraqi Dinar against the US Dollar kept rising in the Central Bank of Iraq's auction on Sunday. The US Dollar was sold for 1400 Iraqi Dinars, whereas it was sold for 1411 Iraqi Dinars last Thursday. The CBI sold only 24,930,000 US Dollars, whereas the total sales were 60,250,000 US Dollars last Thursday. Twelve banks participated in Sunday's auction, while 15 banks participated in the previous session.

***Al-Mada***

### **Ministers' Council allocates \$2 billion for Ministry of Electricity next year**

The Council of Ministers has approved allocation of \$2 billion to be used in executing electric power projects all over the country, especially the safe areas which are suffering power outage because of the accident at the Beiji Steam Power Plant. Senior engineer Ra'ad al-Harriss said the government has approved allocation of the funds to execute a number of production projects to transfer electricity in various regions in Iraq within the plan for 2007, referring to the allocation as being very great compared to that of 2006, which was \$800 million.

***Al-Sabah Al-Jadeed***

### **32 licenses to import food products issued**

The import department in the state company for Iraqi fairs has issued 32 licenses for several companies to import food products. A source from the ministry of trade said in a press statement Sunday that these licenses included 15 licenses to import eggs from Iranian origins and 14 licenses to import chickens from American and Brazilian origins. The source added that the company has issued two licenses to import 6000 tons of Indian beef worth 7,900,000 US Dollars, in addition to one license to import 500 tons of dairy products from Iran. The company has also issued 16 importing cards for Iraqi businessmen, according to the source.

***National Iraqi News Agency***

### **Iraq, Turkey hold talks over water resources**

Technical staff from the Ministry of Water Resources left for Turkey to hold talks over the issue of water resources shared between the two countries. The Minister of Water Resources Mr. Abdul Lateef Jamal Rasheed said in a statement Tuesday, "The talks that will be held will complete the discussions that were started before with Turkey to reach a fair sharing out of waters." He added that the irrigation projects and huge dams that Turkey was carrying out on the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers aroused fears in Iraq of a shortage of water supply from outside Iraq. He said, "Turkey is carrying out many dams and huge reservoirs on the Tigris and Euphrates basins without informing Iraq about the details of these projects or their effect on the water of the neighboring countries - a matter which is considered a violation of international laws that regulate the use of common waters."

***National Iraqi News Agency***

### **ID exchange price keeps hiking**

The Central Bank of Iraq's total sales of US Dollar decreased for the third successive day to reach 10,605,000 US Dollars in Tuesday's auction, whereas 12,095,000 US Dollars were sold in Monday's auction. The US Dollar's exchange rate was 1380 Iraqi Dinars on Tuesday, whereas it was 1388 Iraqi Dinars on Monday. The CBI bought 10,880,000 US Dollars on

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Tuesday, at the price of ID 1378. Eight banks participated in Tuesday's auction, which is the same number of banks that participated in Monday's auction.

***Al-Mada***

### **Baghdad Mayor: We sign contracts worth a thousand billion ID**

Baghdad Mayor Dr. Sabir Al-Isawi has declared that the Baghdad mayoralty signed and referred projects during this year worth more than a thousand billion ID. He stated in a press statement Monday, "The mayoralty has set a plan for the upcoming next years that includes projects that are worth 1,000,181,000,000 ID: 180 billion will be provided by Ministry of Planning allocations, 600 billion by Bagdad Council and the rest will be provided by Iraqi budget reserves. He added that the projects include expanding potable water Djilas project in addition to building three water tanks and other projects such as remanufacturing wastes and stations to collect garbage in Rusafa and Karkh. Next year will witness establishing 15 recreation grounds such as Zawara Park, according to Isawi.

***Al-Adala***

### **ID rate keeps rising**

The exchange rate of the Iraqi Dinar against the US Dollar kept rising in the Central Bank of Iraq's auction on Thursday. The US Dollar was sold for 1360 Iraqi Dinars on Thursday, whereas it was sold for 1373 Iraqi Dinars on Wednesday. The CBI sales of US Dollar on Thursday declined sharply to 1,250,000 US Dollars, whereas 22,230,000 US Dollars were sold on Wednesday. The Central Bank bought 1,500,000 US Dollars, at the price of ID 1358. Six banks participated in Thursday's auction, while nine banks participated on the previous session.

***Al-Adala***

### **New water project in Diwaniya**

A water project has been accomplished in Nafar town in Diwaniya, with a cost of ID 629 million and with a capacity of one million gallons per hour. The head of information in the reconstruction and development office in the province said Wednesday that this project would satisfy the needs of the town and a further two villages of 5000 residents. This new project will replace the old one. It includes a 4 km pipe network, with diameters of 250 mm and 160 mm.

***National Iraqi News Agency***

### **Al Maliki calls to invest in secure areas**

The prime minister said he discussed issues of mutual interest, such as the investment to be carried out by Polish companies in Iraq, with the Polish prime minister currently on a visit to Iraq. This came in a joint press conference held with Polish PM Jaroslaw Kaczynski to discuss political and economic issues concerning Iraq and Poland.

***Al-Mada***

### **Forty-one Billion Dollars allocated for Iraq's 2007 Budget**

The Minister of Finance, Baqir Jabur al-Zubaidi, announced the government's budget for 2007 will be 41 billion dollars and added the exchange rate used to assess the budget is 1260 ID/USD. Zubaidi also said 400 million dollars have been allocated to cover the 50% - 70% increase in government salaries.

***As-Sabah Al-Jadeed***

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