

Political

Basra Province

U.S GC meets GCPI staff

Source: U.S Consulate General- Basra

Date: Sept 02, 2015

The U.S CG Steve Walker meets with Captain Omran Radhi Thani, Director of the General Company of Ports in Iraq (GCPI), and discussing about the operations of Iraqi seaports and the vital role.

A committee to reduce the disputes between Bader and ISCI

Source: almaalomah

Date: Sept 03, 2015

Saleem Shawaki the Citizen's bloc member and Basra representative at PM says that the two most powerful Shia political entities, ISCI and Bader Organization plan to establish a committee to prevent dispute from escalating and motivate the two entities to begin negotiations to reduce tensions. Shwaki adds the disputes between Ahmed Al-Suliti, Head of Bader Org. at BPC and Basra's Governor, Majied AL-Nasrawi is an individual disputes not a political one.

Basra's Governor under Questioning

Source: pukmedia

Date: Sept 04, 2015

BPC decided to reschedule the questioning session of Basra Governor on September 08, 2015. This came after Basra's Governor Majed Al-Nasrawi requests BPC to delay the Questioning session into a week to allow the Governor to check 65 questions which stir up by BPC's members especially from Bader Organization bloc at BPC.

Basra's Beleaguered Governor under Fire

Source: basra.gov.iq

Date: sept, 09, 2015

Head of Basra First Alliance at BPC Aqeel al-Khalidi says that BPCs especially his Alliance receive SMS messages' threatening them to remove Basra's governor whether they satisfy with his answers or not. On other hand, Basra's governor attends the session of questioning which holds based on the request of Ahmed Suliti, Head of Bader Org. at BPC. During the session of questioning, Majid al-Nasrawi answers 10 out of 65 questions address by the interrogator Ahmed al-Suliti. Al-Nasrawi comments that al-Suliti delivers general questions not based on lack of integrity or abuse of position or causing waste of public funds or loss of one of the membership requirements or willful negligence and dereliction of his duties. But al-Suliti assures that his questions based on Al-Nasrawi negligence and dereliction of his duties. On other hand, SLA bloc at BPC points out that they don't be satisfied with the governor's answers and Basra First Alliance expresses that they are confidence in the answers of the governor. But, the majority of the BPCs decide that they will hold additional session On 12 Sept, 2015 in order to hear the answers of the rest questions and then they will determine their satisfaction with the answers of the governor.

Basra PMs call to establish Voting Center

Source: almedapress

Date: Sept 14, 2015

Mohammed al-Ta'ai, representative of Basra in Iraqi Parliament, requested the chairman of Iraqi Parliament to address MoC to allocate money to open a voting center to hold Basra Region Referendum. Al-Ta'ai confirmed that he collected 28 PMs' signatures to support the request.

COI to deal with the Governor of Basra's files and BPCs call for early Election

Source: almirbad.com

Date: Sept 13, 2015

BPC decided to transfer the files of questioning session to the prosecutor and the Commission of Integrity (COI) to take an action. The BPC made the decision after the governor of Basra answered 33 out of 65 questions because the interrogator Ahmed al-Suliti asked to stop the session of questioning as a result of an emergency while the BPC voted on the continuation of the questioning. Majid al-Nasrawi commented about the decision of the BPC to

transfer the files of corruption to prosecutor and the Commission of Integrity was good one and would help to take an honest decision away from politicians intervenes. In addition to that the Chairman of the BPC Sabha al-Bazooni called the Federal Government to conduct early local election in next June 2016 and avoiding Sainte-Laguë method that produced disable local governments.

Further, BPCs commented that Ahmed al-Suliti's questions did not create satisfaction to BPCs to say that Majid al-Nasrawi was a corrupter and Suliti's questions have not based on lacking of integrity or abuse of position or causing waste of public funds or loss of one of the membership requirements or willful negligence and dereliction of the duties. It was worthy to mentioning that Aegis Defense Services and Hill International companies were the main files which rose by Ahmed al-Suliti. He believed that Aegis the U.K Company and Hill the U.S Company got money without providing tangible services.

Aegis Defense Services contracts with the Governor of Basra to provide him and his Security Committee with support in the procurement of enhancements to their security. Hill International (NYSE:HIL), contracts with the Governorate of Basra to provide program management services in connection with Basra's 2040 Strategic Plan, which involves rehabilitation of existing projects and the construction of new projects related to Basra's infrastructure throughout the region. The one-year contract which is automatically renewable for an additional two years has an estimated value to Hill of approximately \$54 million over the full three-year contract term.

Dutch Ambassador Discusses Investments in Basra

Source: almirbad.com

Date: Sept29, 2015

The Dutch ambassador to Iraq, Jan Waltmans, met with the chairman of BPC Sabha al-Bazooni to discuss investment opportunities. During the meeting, al-Bazooni pointed out that Basra has great investment opportunities that could attract Dutch firms especially in water sector. Al-Bazooni added that Dutch firms has great experiences in dealing with water problems so, the BPC invited Dutch firms to contribute in solving salt water crisis in Basra. The ambassador from his part said that the main goal of the visit to Basra was to had a close look at investment project and opportunities that could motivate Dutch firms to invest in Basra.

Local officials visit Basra Water Project

Source: almirbad.com

Date: Sept 29, 2015

The chairman of BPC Sabha al-Bazooni and Amer al-Khozai, Basra representative in Iraqi parliament paid a visit to the Basra Water project site in al-Hartha, north of Basra city .The visit realized as a result of the EOJ's Liaison office efforts to encourage Basra local officials to visit the site. Al-Bazooni, during his visit, met with the senior chief engs of PMT at the project Abdul Munem khayoon and he commented that Basra water project will not serve as an ideal solution to end the water crisis unless the PMT would decide to double the production of capacity of the project.

Thi-Qar Province

Iranian Counsel visits Thi-Qar

Source: Independent Press Agency

Date: Sept29, 2015

The Governor of Thi-Qar Yaha al-Nassri met Iranian Counsel in Basra Hameed Ridha Abadi and Economic delegation accompanied him. They discussed the security, economic and bilateral relations.

Al-Muthanna Province

Al-Muthanna PC Appoints new governor

Source: almirbad.com

Date: Sept 14, 2015

Withdrawal of the Citizens and Tagheer blocs at the PC,16 out 26 of al-Muthanna PCs voted to choose Faleh Abdul-Hussein Seker Ziadi from SLA as a new governor. He replaced a predecessor Ibhreem Al-Mayali from SLA who resigned as responding for the protestor's demands. The Citizens and Tagheer believed that the appointing of

Ziadi disobeyed al-Sistani's instructions which instruct to prevent electing somebody based on political or Sectarianism affiliation.

Economic

Basra Province

Basra's Governor meets Veolia

Source: majednasrawi

Date: Sept01, 2015

Basra's Governor Majid Al-Nasrawi meets with Veolia Executive Director in Iraq Ali Hussein to discuss suitable ways to set up six Water Purification Plants in Basra. For his part, Al-Nasrawi highlights that he has no objection to implement the project. He will send a request to get the approval of MoC to the project. Ali Hussein assures that his Co. will work hard to conduct the Feasibility Study of Water Purification Plants for Basra Local Government as soon as possible. Veolia Environment S.A., branded as Veolia, is a French transnational company with activities in three main service and utility areas traditionally managed by public authorities – water management, waste management and energy services.

Lukoil gets \$1.5bn from West Qurna in 1H

Source: Lukoil

Date: Sept.03, 2015

Lukoil reports that in the first half of 2015 accrued revenue from the West Qurna-2 project in the total amount of \$1,535 million, consisting of cost recovery of \$1,475 million and remuneration fee of \$60 million, compares to the revenue of \$1,179 million in the first half of 2014. This revenue classifies as crude oil sales revenue. Attributable amount of 4,412 thousand tonnes, or 30,260 thousand barrels, of crude oil was included in Group's crude oil production for the first half of 2015 (1,781 thousand tonnes, or 12,218 thousand barrels in the first half of 2014) that represent approximately 52% of total production from the field (65% in the first half of 2014). In the first half of 2015, the company receives 4,769 thousand tonnes of crude oil from the Iraqi party as a debt settlement within the cost compensation. This crude oil at cost of \$1,683 million recognize in Cost of purchase crude oil, gas and products. Subsequently, Lukoil sells this crude oil to third party customers or deliver it to its refineries. During the first half of 2015, the cost compensation increase the Group's EBITDA by \$1,072 million (\$1,017 million in the first half of 2014). The project's target production level is 1.2 million barrels per day and the total term of the contract is 25 years.

G4S Win \$187 Million Basra Contract

Source: G4S Risk Management

Date: Sept 11, 2015

G4S Risk Management won a contract to provide security services to Basra Gas Company (BGC) for three years commencing January 2016 with a total contract value of \$187 million. The exercise of a two-year extension option would bring the total value to \$270 million. BGC operates several assets including two gas plants, several compressor stations, a marine shipping terminal, an LPG storage terminal, and all the pipelines between. BGC captures and transports gas from oil fields of West Qurna 1, North Rumaila, South Rumaila and Zubair. This is the largest gas project in Iraq's history and the world's largest gas flares reduction project.

Veolia wins Basra desalination contract

Source: Basra Provincial Council –Media office

Date: Sept 15, 2015

BPC and The Governor of Basra asked French multinational Veolia Environment to prepare a plan in order to send it to MoC. The plan which will be prepared by Veolia may qualify it to win a contract at the cost of 450\$M to build six desalination plants in Basra and operate the plants for 18 months.

Iraq to IOCs: Low Spending Plans for 2016

Source: Bloomberg

Date: Sept 15, 2015

The director of licensing at Iraq's Ministry of Oil, Abdul Mahdy Al-Ameedi, has written a letter to IOCs asking them for conservative spending plans for 2016 in light of the ongoing oil price rout. The low oil prices seen since

last year have limited Iraq's ability to pay companies to meet production targets, and government revenues have fallen significantly.

Fertilizer Plant in Basra starts to produce Ammonia and Urea

Source: almirbad.com

Date: Sept 14, 2015

The Director of fertilizer plant in Basra Rafid Abedal Jaleel said that the rehabilitation of the plant was supported by the Japanese ODA loan. It contributed to the increase of daily capacity and it may increase to 12,000 tons of Urea in the future. Abedal Jaleel added that the production of the plant will meet the needs of the Agriculture Ministry in the majority of the provinces. Abedal Jaleel assured the Ministry imported one ton of Urea at the cost of 750,000 iqd from outside of Iraq while the plant sold one ton of Urea at the cost of 500,000 iqd. The fertilizer plant in Basra was built and operated by a Japanese consortium with 150\$M. The consortium includes Mitsui, Toyo Engineering Corp and Unico International Corp.

Kentz Awarded Contract at West Qurna 1

Source: SNC Lavalin

Date: Sept 17, 2015

Canada's SNC-Lavalin has announced that ExxonMobil awarded a contract to Kentz, a member of the SNC-Lavalin Group, the contract was for a new oil processing facility to increase production at its West Qurna 1 oil field in north of Basra. Kentz, with its regional partner, is providing the front-end engineering design (FEED), detailed design engineering, procurement, fabrication, construction, commissioning and start-up of the new facility, capable of producing an annual average of 100,000 stock tank barrels of crude oil per day. The facility, located in the province of Al Basra, will be designed to process full well stream fluids from the production wellhead area and separate them into associated gas, untreated produced water, and stable product crude for export. The project will be executed out of the company's Abu Dhabi engineering hub, with support from its Dubai operations and is expected to be completed in 26 months. This project is critical for the West Qurna 1 overall development plan and this contract highlights key advantages that the integration brings to the company's overall capability to service key clients.

LC Waikiki a Turkish clothing store opens its branch in Basra

Source: almirbad.com

Date: Sept 20, 2015

Basra Time Square project which invested by AlDayer United Group and in cooperation with BPC and Turkish companies opened LC Waikiki a Turkish clothing store branch in Basra. It comes as a first step to open other mall parts. The opening reception witnessed a lot of Basrawi's visitors.

DCI to develop New Wells

Source: INA

Date: Sept 20, 2015

Drilling Company in Iraq (DCI) announced that the company staff started exploratory drilling operations in Nahran Omar wells in the depth of 46m for the benefit of SOC. The site manager Adeal Hussain Abbass said that drilling operations faced no problems.

Ebadi authorizes BPC to negotiate with Veolia

Source: almirbad.com

Date: Sept 22, 2015

During his visit to MoC, the chairman of BPC Sabah al-Bazooni stated that he authorized by Hayder al-Ebadi the prime minister of Iraq to negotiate with French multinational Veolia Environment to build six desalination plants in Basra. The funding of the plants will be from deferred payment or oil for services or loan from international bank. Veolia will be implementing the project within 15 months at the cost of 450\$M and 10 years to provide plants maintenance and operation.

BPC announces to finance Small and Medium Enterprises

Source: almirbad.com

Date: Sept 23, 2015

The chairman of BPC Sabah al-Bazooni called unemployment to apply for loans which will reach to 3-10 MIQD

for supporting Basra businesses. Loans extended by(CBI) for Financing Small and Medium Enterprises were to develop or expand small businesses and will reach a total of 5TIQD. These loans to small and medium-sized businesses will be decreased the unemployment rates in Basra as well as in Iraq.

Thi-Qar Province

New Degassing Station Opens at AL Nasiriyah Oil field

Source: almirbad.com

Date: Sept02, 2015

Thi-Qar Oilfields Authority begins to operate AL-Nasiriyah degassing station. It assists to add 50,000 bpd to AL-Nasiriyah Oil field production and to double the production of the Oil field to 100,000 bpd.

Nasiriyah textile factory opens new Lines

Source: basra.gov.iq

Date: sept, 09, 2015

Thi-Qar's governor Yaha al-Nassri allocated 57miqd to complete the installation of plastic mat plant .It is one of products lines in Nasiriyah textile factory. Al-Nassri added that the plant will operate within two months and contribute to decrease the unemployment and booming the public business activities in the province.

Ergil Complete Gharraf Maintenance

Source: Ergil

Date: Sept17, 2015

Turkish oil and gas services company Ergil have announced the completion of a project with Petronas, to provide pipeline maintenance via “pigging” at the Gharraf oil field in Thi-Qar Province. Gharraf is operated by Petronas, Japex and North Oil Company, and the services Ergil provided installing “pig launchers” and “pig receivers” were provided to the 13km Gharraf-Badra pipeline. Pigs” are devices inserted into oil and gas pipelines to remove sediment and scaling, and are considered a more efficient and environmentally friendly way of cleaning pipes compared to flushing them with chemicals and water. As of February 2015, there is now Thi-Qar Oil Company who is also working on the Gharraf field.

Thi-Qar PC intend to reduce development plan

Source: almaalomah.com

Date: Sept 20, 2015

Due to financial crisis, the chairman of Thi-Qar PC Hameed Naeem al-Ghazi said that the PC plan to transfer some of the projects of development plan for 2015 to implement services projects such as Water, Electricity and Health, Swage and Education.

Thi-Qar plans to build Medical City

Source: almaalomh.com

Date: Sept 22, 2015

The chairman of Thi-Qar PC Hameed Naeem al-Ghazi said that the PC plan to establish medical city in cooperation with Health Ministry, UNICIF and other local and international agencies.

Maysan Province

The Governor of Maysan met UNICEF

Source: Independ press agency

Date: Sept23, 2015

The Governor of Maysan Ali Dawai met with the Regional of Director for UNICEF in south region Mr. Bano and the representatives of Water, Health and Education and Environment programs in addition to local officials. They discussed Maysan government's priorities with regard to the reality of children and other sectors and the need to include these priorities in the UNICEF Strategic Plan for next four years.

Al-Muthanna Province

Al-Muthanna PC meets an Italian Company

Source: almirbad.com

Date: Sept 03, 2015

The delegation of the Italian Firm specialized in the field of Electricity met with the chairman of Al-Muthanna PC Hakim Al-Yassri to construct electric power substations in six month according to post-paid system .Al-Yassri said that he thinks to send an official letter about the offers of the firm to MoE to encourage it to approve the project.

Security

Basra Province

Protecting the Production Sites and Oil facilities

Source: cabinet.iq

Date: Sept 02, 2015

COM stressed during it's the (32) regular session on 18/8/2015 upon the necessity of concerted efforts to protect the introduction sites and oil facilities from disabling the activities of extraction, transportation and distribution in AL-Basra and other provinces. It instructed, assuring on the right of protesting and refused overtaking on the sanctity of properties and introduction and service sites, specially, the oil sites. The related sides have to take the necessary procedures against the deter transgressors.

The protesters shut a number of oil wells in Basra

Source Iyn Iraq News, skypressid.net

Date: Sept 04, 2015

The protesters in Al-Midiniya district closed a number of oil wells calling for jobs. Additionally, a small protest reports in vicinity of DS7 in West of Al-Quran 1. On the other hand, Dyer district witnesses new tribal disputes which led to block the highway. Friday demonstration in Basra, Thi-Qar, Maysan and Al-Muthanna still are demanding for services, reforming economic, removing governors and provincial councils. The protesters threat The Central Government to escalate their demonstration into sit-ins if the Central Government did not response to their demands. Basra also witnesses many criminal incidents for money and no attacks targeted foreigners only one kidnapping intendent targeted an Iranian citizen in Maysan but he finally release in cooperation between BaOC and Rafeedain Operations Center which supervise Maysan, Thi-Qar and Al-Muthanna. On the other side, armed robberies at Basra increase. Furhter, Suq Al-Shoyokh district in north of Thi-Qar and Al-Kahla district in Maysan witnesses tribal clashes.

Protests Gonging Ahead

Source: Shafaqnews, almasdernews

Date: Sept 07, 2015

Criminal incidents in center of Basra records high levels because of economic and political problems. Further, unknown miscreants sent threatening letter to Journalists in Basra especially who make media coverage for the demonstration. On the other hand, demonstration in Basra, Maysan, Thi-Qar and al-Muthanna continues demanding for services, fighting corruption and dismissal of the corrupters in local government. Most of the demonstrators are not confident with the E-badi's reform plan because it is not response to the ambition of the people demands. Southern's protests indicate dissatisfaction among residents with the local government over its provision of services, in addition to frustration with central government for its reluctance to allocate a larger share of the budget to oil producing provinces in the South. Observers in Basra indicate that the withdrawal of so called al-Hashed al-Madani do not decrease the number of the demonstrators in the south region especially in Basra. Additionally, Basra also witnesses IEDs incidents .One of them targeted a Brigadier Fawzi Hameed's house, he is Police Commander ,which lead to wound him and the second one targeted judge's house.

Political disputes turn into Quarrels

Source: almirbad.com, almadapress

Date: Sept 18, 2015

Gunmen targeted the deputy of the BPC Waleed Hameed Qaytan's house with sound bomb. It ended without casualties. But, Qaytan believed that the attack was based on political purposes and he refused to accuse anyone. On other hand, The demonstrators in Basra, Thi-Qar, al-Muthanna and Maysan slammed spending reforms announced by Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Ebadi , saying the plan which includes combining some ministries with others to cut costs, did not address the "main issues and it was "fake and misleading".The demonstrators in Basra assured that the questioning of the Governor of Basra was a fake and it was an attempt to deceive the masses. The demonstrators added that they will go ahead with their demonstration in spite of decreasing of the number of demonstrators.

Two of 18 Turkish workers free in Basra

Source: AFP, Basra Provincial Council –Media office, talos-im.com

Date: Sept 14, 2015

Head of Security Committee at BPC Jabber al-Sa'adi said two of 18 Turkish workers kidnapped by gunmen in Baghdad this month released near a Turkish company's premises in Basra. The men were among 18 employees of major Turkish construction firm Nurol Insaat and were kidnapped on September 2 in the Sadr City area of north Baghdad, where they are working on a football stadium project. West of al-Qurna district in north of Basra witnessed tribal clashes and other parts of Basra also witnessed high level of criminal and IEDs incidents.

Kidnappings incidents increased

Source: INA, almaalomh.com, jihadintel.meforum.org, waradana

Date: Sept20, 2015

Gunmen in military uniforms stormed instructor's house to steal 65iqdm in center of Basra city and in Shatt-al Arab district close to Iraq-Iran borders the gunmen shot and injured one member from Emergency Forces. On other hand, Basra SF arrested 9 suspects on charges of terrorism and their previous linked to al-Qa'ada. Additionally, Tribal clashes occurred in Siba area south of Basra city led to kill one and wound three.

Tribal clashes again occurred in north of Basra. Further, kidnappings incidents for a ransom and criminal incidents have been increased and some assassinations incidents were happened at Abo al-Khaseeb district. Moreover, the Al-Abbas Fighting Division held Military parade. It is one of an Iraqi Shi'a militia group that has emerged as part of the wider 'popular mobilization' trend since June 2014 to counter the advances of the ISIS.

The militia- named after Imam Ali's son Al-Abbas (Abu al-Fadl al-Abbas) first emerged at the end of June 2014 in the Karbala area under the narrative of defense of Iraq and the holy sites as well as responding to the 'marja'iyya call' [Shi'a clergy: most notably interpreting Ayatollah Sistani's fatwa] for mobilization. Some claimed areas of operation include Salah ad-Din province (e.g. the Balad area) and Jurf al-Sakhr to the south of Baghdad. The militia is headed by Maytham Zaidi who is linked with the general secretariat for the burial site of Abbas in Karbala.

In, Basra and Thi-Qar, tenths staged demonstrations demining for releasing the activists who kidnapped by unknown armed group in Baghdad and the activists who put in the government's prison. At the same time IED targeted judge's house located in Al-Jaz'er area closed to Sayeed Hamid's mosque.

Maysan Province

Maysan SF stormed Leader of Militia's Home

Source: Buratha News Agency

Date: Sept 20, 2015

Security source in Maysan said that Kmet district situated at West of al-Marha city witnessed clashes between Maysan SF and militia's members affiliated to Kata'ib Hezbollah which led by Wathiq al-Batat. He is a leader of the Mukhtar Army is a Shi'a Iraqi militia group formed in February 2013. Wathiq al-Battat is a former senior official in the Hezbollah Brigades. Al-Battat has pledged his loyalty to the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Al-Battat was arrested briefly on 2 January 2014, and announced that he was apparently killed 'inadvertently' at point-blank range on 20 December 2014 at a fake police checkpoint in eastern Iraq.