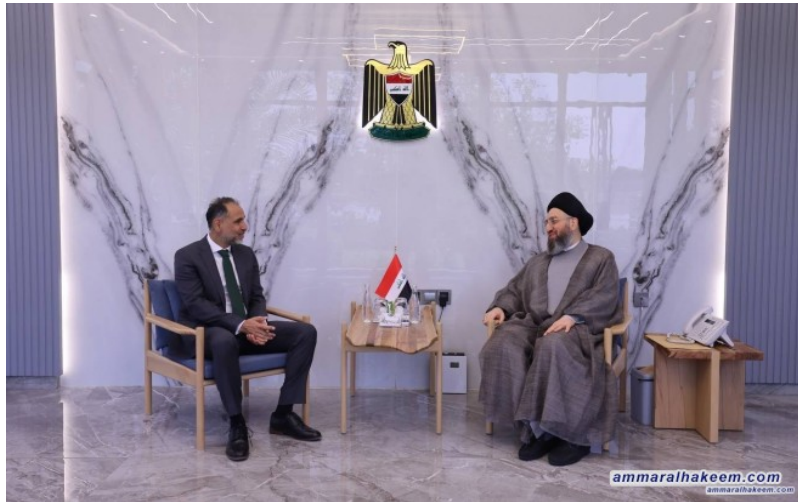


Sayyid Al-Hakeem Urges Major Powers to Assume Responsibilities to De-escalate Regional Tensions



His Eminence Sayyid Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, received at His office in Baghdad this morning the British Ambassador to Iraq, His Excellency Irfan Siddiq.

The meeting addressed developments in bilateral relations between Baghdad and London, as well as the latest developments in the political landscape in Iraq and the region.

H.E. affirmed that Iraq has moved beyond a difficult phase of political deadlock and has succeeded in completing its constitutional entitlements, stressing the importance of completing the cabinet and appointing competent ministers capable of managing the current phase and responding to citizens' aspirations.

H.E. noted that the most prominent challenge facing Iraq at the present stage is the economic challenge, calling for the diversification of income sources and Iraq's oil export outlets in ways that reinforce economic stability and support opportunities for sustainable development.

H.E. also affirmed the importance of Iraq's openness toward its regional and international surroundings, and building the best possible relations with all on the basis of mutual interests and respect for states' sovereignty.

Regarding developments in the region, H.E. called for preventing escalation and restoring stability, urging major powers to assume their responsibilities and work toward achieving this sought-after goal.