

A'am al-Bina'a

"The year of 2008 will be a year of reconstruction for Iraq"
-- Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki



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Female recruits undergo border police training in Sulaymaniyah. The Border Police have 48 female recruits currently in training. Another class of 300 is scheduled to begin training later this year. The Police's goal is to reach 45,500 by the end of 2009.

1,538 new Border Police; 48 women in training

The Iraq Ministry of Interior's Division of Border Enforcement graduated 1,538 border police in September, one of its highest monthly graduation rates this year. Graduating classes included 1,173 basic recruits.

The Border Police also have a class of 48 female basic recruits currently in training, and another class of 300 female recruits scheduled to begin training later this year.

The Border Police graduates completed specialized skills training such as non-commissioned officer

and platoon sergeant schools, and courses in internal affairs, immigration, and patrol tactics.

Newly-hired DBE recruits attend a 240-hour basic recruit training course. Sulaymaniyah Training Academy had the largest graduating class with 763 basic recruits completing the course. 389 border police completed training in Al Najaf, 339 in Basra and 47 from the Al Kut and Diwaniyah Training Centers.

The Border Police surpassed an assigned strength of 43,000 last month. Although a final number

has not yet been determined, the Border Police's goal is to reach an assigned strength of approximately 45,500 by the end of 2009.

"The Division of Border Enforcement now includes 13 brigades with 51 battalions, along with the Coast Guard for guarding Iraq's ports and coastline," said Ashford Mohammed, the DBE's in-country supervisor for the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team/Directorate of Interior Affairs. He said the Border Police "are dedicated and committed to protecting Iraq's border."

Clinic able to help 200 daily

Wasit government officials, Coalition forces and contractors celebrated the completion of the al-Jamaheer Provincial Health Clinic with a ribbon cutting ceremony Sept. 10.

"This clinic will help the people enormously because most people will not have to worry about transportation and private clinic fees to treat their children or loved ones," said Sabah Nasir, al-Jamaheer Clinic contractor.

The clinic is the seventh completed since 2006, providing health care to one of the poorer neighborhoods in Kut.

"The Zuwariyat area had a very big lag in primary health care, so it's very important to most of the poor people who normally cannot pay for private doctors to get health care at this facility," said Hussein Sa-

bry, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers engineer.

Construction began four years ago but was halted repeatedly when terrorists occupied the building, preventing the contractor from completing the work and causing damage that required additional work, said Maj. David Fedroff, USACE engineer.

"It is very significant to prove that terrorism has been defeated in this area, and opening the facility means that the security has become truth," Sabry said.

The clinic has examination rooms, an X-ray machine, two dental stations, dental X-ray machine, laboratory, pharmacy, classroom and offices.

Engineers estimate that the clinic can provide health care for approximately 200 patients daily if working at full staff.



Wasit Governor Abd al-Latif Hamad Tarfah cuts the ribbon at the al-Jamaheer Clinic Sept. 10.



Iraqi children applaud the opening of their newly remodeled school, Sept. 25. It signifies the start of a new school year in the central Radwaniyah community of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad.

Forces unite to finish school on time

U.S. Army Soldiers and local Iraqi community leaders completed renovations on schools in Baghdad's Rashid district Sept. 25, in time for the start of the school year.

"The whole project had to be completed in less than six weeks," said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Eric McCoy. "The buildings have been re-faced, all of the electrical wires re-ran; a new generator has been installed, and the bathrooms were completely renovated as well."

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Jari Village, a neighborhood in the Radwaniyah community, students and teachers found newly renovated buildings with fresh paint, new desks, new roofing and

three new classrooms. Less than an hour later, a re-opening ceremony was held for the Malaly School, also in Radwaniyah.

"The community now has better resources thanks to the hard work of the Coalition forces and Iraqi contractors," said Sheik Ayad, a local leader of the Radwaniyah district.

U.S. Army Capt. Christopher Johnson spoke to the crowd. "This is the future of Iraq; it begins here with the children. We all remember when the roof here was falling in, and it was a dangerous environment for the kids," he said. "This is a much better environment for the students and teachers to focus on education now."

Key project promises to provide 12 hours of power to households

Iraqi community leaders brought additional power to the people of Jisr Diyala when they unveiled new micro-power generators in the Karadah district of eastern Baghdad Sept. 30.

Ali al-Abdilzahara, president of essential services for the Zafaraniyah area, cut the ribbon to mark the momentous event.

The generators will provide power to 300 Jisr Diyala households for up to 12 hours a day.

Sabah Alrobaiey, Neighborhood Council chairman of Jisr Diyala, and U.S. Army Soldiers were on hand to help Jisr Diyala residents celebrate the occasion.

"This project will help a lot of people," said Abdilzahara, who added the micro-power generators will help the people get more power and solve some problems in the area.

For the first three months, power from the generators will be free to residents.

After that period, citizens who draw power from the generators will pay, said Abdilzahara, explaining also that people are thrilled about the project.



A red ribbon surrounds a micro-power generator Sept. 30 that will provide power to 300 households in the Diyala neighborhood of Karadah in eastern Baghdad.

Feedback from Jisr Diyala citizens has been very positive. Now, instead of just one or two hours of power, a family can enjoy approximately 12 hours of power a day, said Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Allen.

Much needed plant built for local infrastructure

Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone program helps Alkema Company secure plant



Hamad Hamood Shekti (left), governor of Sal al-Din province, and other local Iraqi leaders prepare for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new asphalt plant Oct. 7, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The plant will be operated by the Alkema Company and secured by U.S. forces.

The Iraqi government and business leaders joined Coalition officials in an Iraqi-Based Industry Zone opening ceremony Oct. 7. It was hosted by Akeel Najy Marhoon, the owner of the Balad Alkema Factory.

Marhoon recently signed a land agreement with Joint Base Balad to construct and operate an asphalt factory on the installation.

Marhoon spoke to members of local and national media and told them the facility employs more than 50 local Iraqis and he

plans to expand the facility. He also told reporters the facility will be able to provide paving services needed for local infrastructure projects.

The I-BIZ project is the latest in a series of economic initiatives by Coalition forces to sustain security gains in the areas surrounding Joint Base Balad.

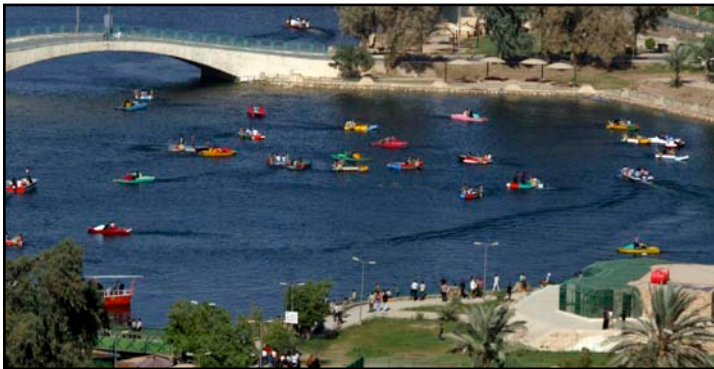
This opening drew an impressive showing of Iraqi television, radio and print journalists, an indicator of progress in the region according to Coalition officials.

Fun in the Sun after Ramadan

500,000 people pass daily through the newly opened gates of Zawra Park



A street vendor prepares cotton candy for eager customers along a crowded sidewalk in Baghdad's Zawra Park in the Karkh district Oct. 4.



Residents enjoy boat rides on the lake at Zawra Park.



A young Iraqi girl smiles around a treat in Zawra Park in the Karkh district of Baghdad Oct. 4.



A local entrepreneur stands outside the main entrance to Zawra Park selling drinks to passersby Oct. 4 and gives a big "thumbs up" to U.S. Army Soldiers and Iraqi Police-men as they pass by. Park officials estimated that an average of 500,000 daily visitors have passed through the gates of the park since the end of Ramadan.



Local residents flock to Zawra Park in the Karkh district of Baghdad.