

العراق الجديد الحياة الجديدة

Multi National Division (South East)

- Al Basrah – Maysan – Dhi Qar – Al Muthanna –

NEWS WEEKLY UPDATE

23 FEB – 01 MAR 05

A weekly digest of positive news stories from the region.

SECURITY, LAW AND ORDER

British Army carries out first patrols in As Samawah – British and Dutch troops have carried out joint patrols ahead of the transfer of authority for Al Muthanna region from Netherlands to British forces on March 7. Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and the 1st Battalion Queen's Dragoon Guards met Iraqi police officers and local people in the town of As Samawah and its environs to reassure them that support to the Iraqi security forces would continue.

Iraqi Police and Army training in the Netherlands – A total of 20 members of the Iraqi Police Service and eight Iraqi Army officers from Al Muthanna Province are attending an officers' course in the Netherlands as part of a joint military – police skills programme.

MEDICAL

Italian soldiers deliver humanitarian aid to Iraqi village - Italian troops from the Garibaldi Brigade working in partnership with the International Red Cross (IRC) delivered humanitarian aid to around 50 families living around the village of Jamal Al Muhammad in Dhi Qar Province. Village populations in this part of Iraq are very poor and the IRC is carrying out health visits to improve the welfare of local people.

Japanese soldiers refurbish clinic in Najmi area – Soldiers from the 3rd Japanese Iraq Reconstruction Support Group took part in a ceremony to mark the completion of improvements to the Primary Health Centre in the Najmi area of Al Muthanna District. The project will enable the clinic to operate effectively and provide a high level of health care to local people.

EDUCATION

Italian troops improve two schools in Dhi Qar Province – Italian troops from the Garibaldi Brigade attended the opening ceremonies to mark the refurbishment of two schools in Dhi Qar Province. Building work, new furniture and teaching materials at schools in the towns of Al Gharraf and Qal Al Shukar was paid for by Italian funds. The project should improve the educational development of young people in Dhi Qar Province.

New Basrah Sports Stadium nearly complete – British troops from 4 Armoured Brigade are helping to build a new sports stadium in Basrah City. The complex is now 80% complete and when finished will provide a valuable recreational and leisure facility for young people in the area.

POWER, FUEL AND WATER

Water treatment plant in Al Matir Al Kabir – British troops are helping to construct a new water treatment plant at Al Matir Al Kabir. The project, paid for by 4 Armoured Brigade funds, has provided temporary employment for local men and, once completed, will be handed over to the local Maysan Water Directorate.