WEEKLY BRIEF

Weekly brief: 16 November 2026

Developments this week across Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, Gulf capital, payments and fintech, travel and hospitality, and policy.

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A weekly digest of developments across the markets and sectors Tekalo Group works in: Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, Gulf capital, payments and fintech, travel and hospitality, and government relations. Headlines link to the original publishers.

This week at a glance: 24 developments across 5 areas — Iraq & Kurdistan Region; Gulf capital & investment; Payments & fintech; Travel, tourism & hospitality; Policy & government relations.

IRAQ & KURDISTAN REGION

- New Baghdad Airport Planned — Iraq Business News, 15 Nov
- Iraq's Oil Production "Soars to 2019 High" — Iraq Business News, 15 Nov
- Fuel Smuggling Probe Ordered for Jurf al-Nasr — Iraq Business News, 14 Nov
- Microsoft and Google Cloud Eye Iraq Data Centre Expansion — Iraq Business News, 13 Nov
- Turkish Group Proposes Food Processing, Agri and Rail Investments — Iraq Business News, 13 Nov

GULF CAPITAL & INVESTMENT

- Al Fardan: Gulf heirs may not inherit family fortunes — AGBI, 14 Nov
- Saudi stocks rebound but remain below pre-conflict levels — AGBI, 13 Nov
- Abu Dhabi-backed Nscale warns of funding gap ahead of IPO — AGBI, 13 Nov
- Spinneys absorbs spiralling costs to keep the shelves stocked — AGBI, 13 Nov
- Art Nights in DIFC, and the livin' is easy — AGBI, 13 Nov

PAYMENTS & FINTECH

- UK Tests Cross-Border Settlement With Singapore and Thailand — PYMNTS, 15 Nov
- UAE's Wafr attracts angel investment to digitise sukuk issuance and settlement — Wamda, 10 Nov
- enza attracts $6 million investment to expand its African payments network — Wamda, 9 Nov
- UAE's Soter Insure secures fresh Series B investment from SC Ventures, SBI Group — Wamda, 9 Nov
- MENA startup funding plunges 96% to $40 million in October 2026 as megadeals dry up — Wamda, 9 Nov

TRAVEL, TOURISM & HOSPITALITY

- Saudi Hotel Builders Keep Going as Attacks Scare Off Foreign Visitors — Skift, 12 Nov
- Pieter Liebenberg appointed GM of Radisson Hotel Riyadh Airport — Hotelier Middle East, 15 Nov
- Judith Cartwright: Seven lessons I have learned in business and life — Hotelier Middle East, 14 Nov
- Revealed: Hotelier Middle East Awards 2026 winners — Hotelier Middle East, 13 Nov
- Longevity and wellness clinic Shookra opens at Andaz Dubai The Palm — Hotelier Middle East, 13 Nov

POLICY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- Anti-Houthi forces retreat in Yemen as Iran strikes Bahrain — Al-Monitor, 15 Nov
- Yemeni government force retreats from strait in major setback in war against Houthis — Al-Monitor, 15 Nov
- Netanyahu calls for Israeli unity government, Eisenkot dismisses 'tricks' — Al-Monitor, 14 Nov
- UN climate chief urges speed as COP31 confronts fossil fuel divide — Al-Monitor, 14 Nov

WHY IT MATTERS

Tekalo Global Strategies tracks these signals because they shape market-entry timing, investor appetite, payment and banking pathways, and travel demand in the regions where our clients operate. To discuss what any of these developments means for your organisation, contact our team.

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