WEEKLY BRIEF

Weekly brief: 23 November 2026

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

Tekalo Global Strategies — Research desk | 23 November 2026 | 4 min read

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

- Iraq to Release $1bn to Pay Contractors — Iraq Business News, 22 Nov
- EBRD Explores Expanded Finance for Iraqi SMEs — Iraq Business News, 22 Nov
- Thales in Talks on Iraqi Air Traffic Management — Iraq Business News, 22 Nov
- Iraq-Germany Talks on Development Cooperation — Iraq Business News, 22 Nov
- New Agricultural AI Platform Free for Iraqi Farmers — Iraq Business News, 22 Nov

GULF CAPITAL & INVESTMENT

- Smugglers 'hot tap' Iraqi pipelines to steal oil — AGBI, 20 Nov
- Iran war drives down foreign assets at Central Bank of Kuwait — AGBI, 20 Nov
- Sharjah free zone targets 400MW data centre — AGBI, 20 Nov
- Saudi German Health board members face legal action — AGBI, 20 Nov
- Diriyah cancels $200m hotel construction contract — AGBI, 20 Nov

PAYMENTS & FINTECH

- Sudan's Cashi secures $660,000 investment from France's Proparco — Wamda, 19 Nov
- 500 Global, Sanabil Investments select seven startups for accelerator's 12th cohort — Wamda, 19 Nov
- Egypt's Connect Money raises $3.5 million pre-Series A — Wamda, 19 Nov
- Ziina offers new feature to split bill to simplify shared payments — Wamda, 18 Nov

TRAVEL, TOURISM & HOSPITALITY

- Saudi Arabia's Diriyah Scraps $191 Million Hotel Build — Skift, 20 Nov
- Oil Spills Affect UAE, Oman Beaches as Hormuz Strikes Go On — Skift, 20 Nov
- Marriott signs deal for first Fairfield hotel in the UAE — Hotelier Middle East, 22 Nov
- Abu Dhabi puts hotel stays on the itinerary with new yacht charter guide — Hotelier Middle East, 21 Nov

- AVENEW announces St. Regis Residences at Dubai Islands in its first Marriott deal — Hotelier Middle East, 20 Nov

POLICY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- Analysis-Can climate diplomacy build on the collapse of COP31? — Al-Monitor, 22 Nov
- Libya's eastern government suspects drone attack caused explosion on Russian ship — Al-Monitor, 22 Nov
- Netanyahu, Eisenkot parties end talks without deal on forming Israel govt — Al-Monitor, 22 Nov
- COP31 climate talks set to collapse without political deal — Al-Monitor, 22 Nov
- Israel's Eisenkot condemns arson attacks by Jewish settlers in West Bank — Al-Monitor, 22 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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