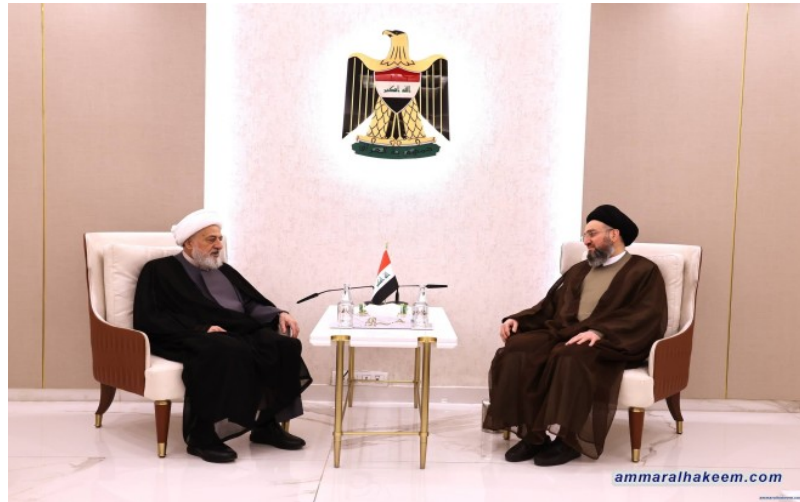


Sayyid Al-Hakeem: Lebanon's Societal Cohesion Essential to Confront Challenges, Crises



H.E. Sayyid Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, received at his office in Baghdad the Head of the Supreme Islamic Shia Council, Sheikh Ali Al-Khateeb, and discussed with him the situation in the region, particularly in Lebanon, affirming Iraq's support, government and people alike, for Lebanon in reconstruction and restoring life in its resilient south. H.E. affirmed that Iraq is going through financial hardship as a result of regional events that have cast their heavy shadow over the countries of the region, including Iraq, stressing the importance of relying on dialogue and mutual understanding to resolve outstanding issues, and calling for the care of displaced persons and the easing of the burdens of displacement in Lebanon, particularly with the approach of winter and its harshness in those areas, noting the importance of social cohesion in Lebanon in confronting crises.