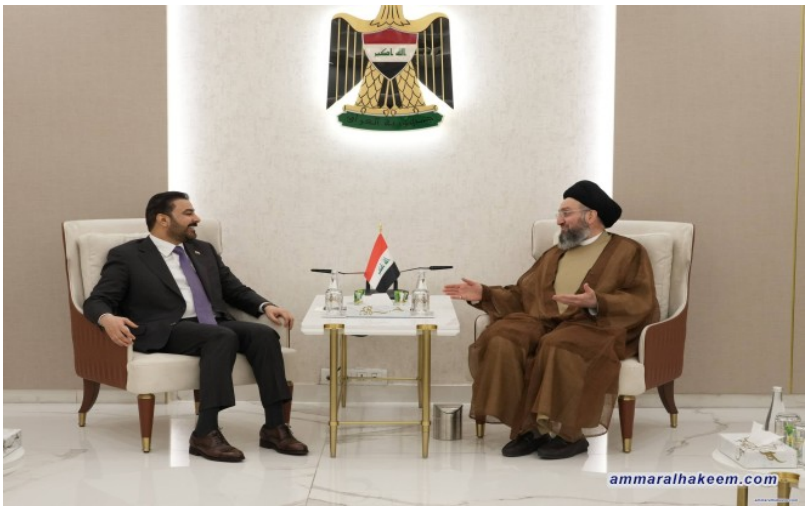
Sayyid Al-Hakeem: to Preserve Iraq's Sovereignty, Hand Over Weapons to Popular Mobilization Forces Strengthen State’s Power



His Eminence Sayyid Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, received His Excellency Prime Minister Ali Al-Zaidi, and the two sides discussed developments in the political scene in Iraq and the region and the challenges facing Iraq at this stage, with H.E. commending the efforts being made to provide services to citizens and manage the country's affairs amid the difficult economic and financial circumstances, calling for confronting the challenges with greater national cohesion and internal solidarity.

H.E. affirmed the importance of completing the government cabinet, calling for the appointment of competent ministers capable of shouldering the burdens of the administrative and financial situation in Iraq, and calling on the political blocs to finalize their choices regarding their government entitlements.

Sayyid Al-Hakeem reiterated his support for confining weapons to the state, calling for adopting dialogue and understanding as the means to achieve this, alongside the importance of commending the role of the factions in confronting terrorism and restoring the state, affirming the importance of preserving the country's sovereignty and handing over weapons to the Popular Mobilization Forces Authority as an official security institution that answers to the Commander-in-Chief and operates under his orders.

H.E. commended the government's direction toward adopting a program-based budget in the coming stage, stressing the importance of targeting files according to priorities, calling for capitalizing on this stage to diversify the economy and move away from the rentier state model, and diversifying Iraqi oil export outlets through a pipeline network toward the Mediterranean and Red Seas.