

NIGC signs 22 deals
with private firms to cut
gas consumption,
boost efficiency

3 >



Iran Daily

Vol. 8037 ● Monday, January 26, 2026 ● Bahman 06, 1404 ● Sha'ban 06, 1447 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 pages



> irandaily.ir

| newspaper.irandaily.ir

| IranDailyWeb

Iranian lawmakers rap EU Parliament's anti-Tehran resolution

'European countries cannot evade accountability for role in Iran terrorist acts'

2 >

Second killing in Minneapolis by US ICE officers sparks uproar

2 >



People mourn at a makeshift memorial in the area where 37-year-old Alex Pretti was shot dead by federal immigration agents earlier in the day in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on January 24, 2026.

● AFP

Nouri al-Maliki, fit for
Iraq's premiership,
yet facing immense
challenges

INTERVIEW
EXCLUSIVE



Reza Qazvini

The Coordination Framework, a coalition of Shia political groups, has put forward Nouri al-Maliki as its nominee for Iraq's premiership. A seasoned Shia politician with close ties to Iran, Al-Maliki's selection has garnered support from factions like the Kurdistan Democratic Party, but has also drawn fire from Sunni parties. Simultaneously, reports of escalating US pressure on Iraq, specifically targeting Shia groups and regarding the disarmament of resistance groups have surfaced, complicating the already volatile political landscape. In an interview with Iran Daily, Reza Qazvini, an expert on Iraqi affairs, argued that Al-Maliki's selection, amidst such a sensitive and tense climate, is a proper move. According to him, Al-Maliki is a decisive figure who can engage in meaningful and serious dialogue with various groups, both within and outside Iraq.

IRAN DAILY: What's your assessment of the potential impact on Iraq's political future in the wake of Al-Maliki's selection? Could this lead to stability and unity, or exacerbate existing divisions and tensions?

Qazvini: The situation Iraq finds itself in is exceptionally sensitive. I believe this selection is made within the framework of these highly sensitive conditions and the regional situation. While a consensus wasn't fully achieved within the Framework – he was elected by a majority, not unanimous vote – it generally reflects a widespread understanding among Shia leaders of the current realities. They've chosen Al-Maliki as a strong, decisive figure capable of engaging in serious dialogue with various groups inside and outside Iraq.

There have been disagreements, both among Sunni and Shia factions within the Coordination Framework, regarding Al-Maliki's selection. Conversely, powerful forces among Sunni and Kurdish groups have also voiced their support. Whether he can foster unity and create a stable domestic political environment remains to be seen, and will depend on the policies he pursues. For a strong and empowered prime minister, one who can wield authority in negotiations with both domestic and foreign parties and gain their trust, I believe this is a suitable choice. Iraq does not need a director-general, but a powerful leader. The presence of individuals beholden to their own political factions or regional power centers could be detrimental to Iraq.

Page 2 >



ANALYSIS
EXCLUSIVE

NATO's shadow
Can Europe free itself from
security dependence on
United States?

4 >



Eyvanekey; historical gateway
between ancient dynasties,
modern Semnan

7 >



Widespread library damage across
Iran inflicts cultural loss

8 >

