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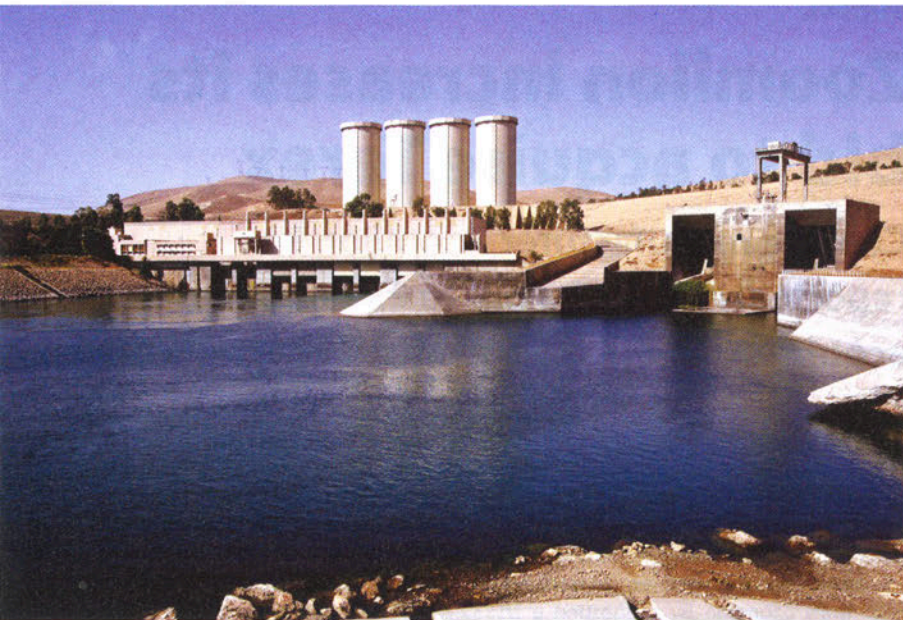
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WORLD IN BRIEF

IRAQ

# Trevi given contract to save failing Iraqi dam

## €273 million contract for Trevi to restore Iraq's largest dam in danger of collapse

**I**talian construction firm Trevi has been awarded a €273 million contract to repair Iraq's largest dam, said to be in imminent danger of catastrophic collapse.

The Mosul dam came to the world's attention last year, when it briefly fell under the control of Islamic State (Isis) and had to be recaptured by Iraqi and Kurdish forces, aided by US jets, bombers and drones.

Up to that point, the 30-year-old dam – already recognised as having been built on an unstable foundation – had been maintained by 300 people, working around the clock in shifts to shore up its construction flaws.

Following the Isis incursion over a year ago, there has been virtually no maintenance work carried out on the dam's structure or its machinery.

Engineers have reported that the dam's compromised structure is struggling to cope with rapidly increasing pressure from the Tigris waters, as high levels of melting winter snow enter the reservoir. Moreover, sluice gates that would normally ease the pressure are currently jammed shut.

The dam's former chief engineer, Nasrat Adamo, who now works in Sweden, told The UK's Guardian newspaper that, since the dam's recapture, "very few workers have come back. There are perhaps 30 people there now."



US

# US equipment exports down

Year-end figures from the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) show a 19% decline in the export of US-made construction equipment worldwide.

At US\$ 13.9 billion, the AEM report's figure for exported goods from the country marks the third consecutive annual fall in overseas sales.

Similarly feeling the

pinch is Caterpillar, the country's (and the world's) largest construction equipment manufacturer, with the company's shares falling 24% in 2015, compared with the previous year.

The company's chairman and CEO, Doug Oberhelman, recently said, "...sales and revenues remain under pressure from weak

commodity prices and slowing economic growth in developing countries."

The AEM report cites US Department of Commerce data and reveals a decline in construction equipment sales to all world regions, with exports to Africa and South America significantly down (by 37% and 33% respectively).



NIGERIA

A five-storey building in Nigeria's largest city, Lagos, collapsed on Tuesday, killing 34 people.

The fatal collapse happened after heavy rains last month in the southeastern district of Lekki, home to some of the most expensive property in the city. The Lagos State government has accused the building's owners of being criminally responsible for the disaster. A government statement said, "The collapsed building was served [a] contravention notice for exceeding the approved floors."

KOREA/KUWAIT

A consortium of South Korean companies led by Hyundai Engineering & Construction has been awarded a US\$2.93 billion (€2.59 billion) contract to build liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities in Kuwait. The contract with the Kuwait National Petroleum Company includes the construction of re-gasification facilities and LNG tanks in Al-Zour, 90 km south of Kuwait City. Under the deal, Hyundai Engineering & Construction's undertaking is valued at US\$1.52 billion (€1.34 billion), with Hyundai Engineering accounting for US\$1.39 billion (€1.23 billion) and Korea Gas Corp's contribution valued at US\$120 million (€106 million).

PERU

An internal document leaked to the press reportedly reveals the Brazilian police are investigating Peruvian president Ollanta Humala, in connection with the Petrobras corruption case. The 44-page document also details ongoing investigations into the activities of a former Argentine transportation minister.

According to the police document, investigators suspect Mr Humala received US\$3 million (€2.65 million) in bribes from Brazilian construction firm Odebrecht, in exchange for contracts in Peru. The office of Brazilian judge Sergio Moro, who is presiding over the Petrobras case, refused to comment on the latest revelations.

MOROCCO

After ten years, growing its business in Morocco, Volvo Construction Equipment's Volvo Maroc SA operation is set to be transferred to one of the firm's established partners, SMT Group. Currently with 25 dealerships in the EU and in Africa, SMT Group already represents Volvo CE in each of Morocco's neighbouring countries. Under the deal, SMT will take control of the sale, importation and distribution of all Volvo and SDLG branded construction equipment, products and services in the country. The group will retain the Volvo Maroc staff and all current business.

CHINA

Growth in the global demand for cement is expected to reduce to 0.7%, as a result of the decline in China's construction market, according to a new report. The newly updated Global Cement Volumes Forecast from CW Research sees total cement consumption reaching 4.0 billion tons (3.94 billion tonnes) in 2016, rising to 4.2 billion tons (4.13 billion tonnes) by 2020. The report compiles data from the supply-and-demand models of 55 of the world's top cement-consuming nations, accounting for as much as 95% of all global cement demand.