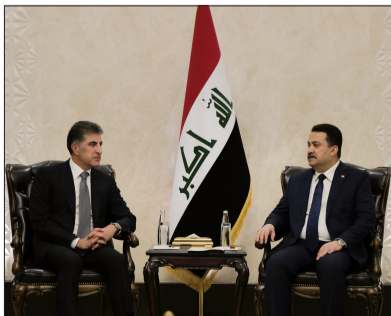


There are still chauvinistic voices against the Kurds within the Iraqi state



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Erbil-Baghdad relations to see positive changes with PM Sudani's visit to Washington



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Iranian missile debris lands in Kurdish village as regional tensions flare



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Editorial

First Election Manifesto:



By | *Dr. Salar Othman*

Solution to the Standing Dilemma

Only sixteen days after the 1991 uprising, a leader among his people, following step by step, and victory after victory with the freedom-loving people and Peshmerges, delivered a decisive historical speech in Koya district in Erbil, and told everyone: "The phase of revolutionary legitimacy is over; we must move towards the legal legitimacy. Elections must be held, and the Kurdish people must decide their own destiny."

This speech was delivered by President Masoud Barzani, the leader who is considered to be the designer of the elections in Kurdistan with his outlook. Barzani's speech is the first post-uprising manifesto of democracy, which resulted in the assembly of the parliament, formation the Kurdistan government and turned political freedom into a reality.

President Masoud Barzani, who delivered this speech to the upraised public in Koya on March 22, 1991, was celebrating a carnival of victory, as the fire of Newroz and the fire of victory was ablaze, he turned politics into a roadmap of the elections, and returned to the people's voice and gave legitimacy to the people themselves.

History has proudly recorded this initiative for President Barzani in its bright pages. All those concerned about truth, democracy and elections should acknowledge this clear fact so that we can think together, work together and solve our problems as only acknowledgment takes us to the resolution.

The same is true now. In order to solve our problems, we must revert to the people and elections, but which elections? A knotted debate sparks off here, which should eventually be loosened with Kurdish wisdom. The knot is that, not only Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), but also some other political parties believe that a pre-designed election has been scheduled, which works on limitation of the parties towards reduction of the political entity of Kurdistan, the Kurdistan Regional Government, the KDP and the components, and eventually starving the people and hindering the progress in Kurdistan. The KDP will not fall under such scenario.

In order to solve this problem, the KDP must be guaranteed on integrity and transparency of the elections that is not interfered. All those among friends, neighbors and domestically who are eager to hold the

elections may ensure these guarantees to the KDP. Then, the KDP will be the first up ready for the elections, as always. And for the sake of political unity and the formation of the government, KDP is ready to receive less than its electoral entitlements and votes. This was obvious from all the previous cabinets; KDP has always wanted less for itself, more for the success of Kurdistan.

However, what the so-called Federal Court is doing now is violation of the laws of the Kurdistan Region, which were enforced by the vote of the Kurdistan Parliament and the voice of the people, while also a violation of the Iraqi constitution, which was drawn up with the efforts and understanding of everyone, while this mere constitution is now being violated by a minority. Yes, what is being orchestrated against the Kurdistan Region is violation of the laws of the Kurdistan Region and Baghdad, which has sparked off the current problems. Yet, the opposite can be also true; the laws could be the solution, but a law that was enforced by the people, not by a hate-driven, biased and small political ruling elite.

Fair elections: this is the same legitimate and democratic demand that Barzani called for then. It continues to stand as a legitimate demand and a solution for today and tomorrow as well. However, this has to be fair election, without interference and hegemony, and merely be stemming from the will and voice of the people.

Regarding the concept of Kurdistan-wide: one of the problems of Iraq and the Kurdistan Region is the disease of localism, which has left impact on everyone, including those standing against localism.

Barzani was precise and farsighted then. And now, in his meeting with the US ambassador on March 20, he wants to tell us with the same farsightedness that: "Iraq has deviated from the right path". We should remind ourselves, that he has several times warned everyone that the Iraqi authorities want to turn the new Iraq, which is based on consensus, balance and partnership, into a non-consensus, imbalance and non-partnership Iraq. This eventually came true. Iraq has slipped into a deep valley. It cannot foresee its future and unite everyone together and will eventually suffer a major blow! Because it cannot cope with the new world and will be left behind.

President Barzani's Remarks Commemorating the 36th Anniversary of Anfal



In the name of the most gracious and powerful God:

One of the most abominable atrocities committed by the former Iraqi regime was the Anfal campaign, which sought to obliterate, annihilate, and exterminate the Kurdish population. 180,000 innocent Kurdish citizens were martyred and slaughtered as a consequence of the systematic genocide that engulfed Kurdistan in successive stages. The crimes of the Iraqi regime against our people encompassed chemical attacks on Kurdistan, the obliteration of thousands of villages,

Arabization initiatives, forced displacements, and the decimation of Kurdistan's economic, demographic, social, and psychological fabric.

The scars of genocide and oppression against our people persist, and their wounds remain unhealed, despite the fact that the perpetrators of Anfal and other atrocities have been consigned to the annals of history. Despite the tragic oppression endured by our people, echoes of racism persist within the Iraqi state. It is incumbent upon the official institutions of Iraq to offer apologies for the Anfal tragedy, as well as

for the genocide, oppression, and injustice perpetrated against the Kurdish population. Furthermore, they are duty-bound to cease any actions or policies that infringe upon Kurdish rights.

On the 36th anniversary of the Anfal atrocity, we pay tribute to the sacrifices and resilience of the families of Anfal victims and martyrs, as well as to the souls of the Anfal martyrs and all other victims of the struggle for Kurdish independence.

Massoud Barzani
April 14, 2024

Thanks to Mr. Tahir Taeb Jaff, who has continued with us as editor-in-chief until this issue. but unfortunately, he can no longer continue with us due to his health condition. We wish him safety and good health. We also wish success to the new editor-in-chief, Ms. Dr. Nazaket Hussien.

Kurdish Globe Newspaper

Iranian missile debris lands in Kurdish village as regional tensions flare

Iranian missile debris in Kurdistan highlights the potential for civilian risk amidst escalating Iran-Israel conflict; urgent call for diplomacy over warfare

A terrifying incident unfolded in the Kurdistan Region on Saturday night when debris from an Iranian missile landed near the village of Akoyan. The incident, which coincided with a wider Iranian missile and drone attack targeting Israel, sent shockwaves through the peaceful Kurdish community.

According to local Kurdish media, the missile fragment, measuring a staggering 12 meters long and one meter wide, landed in a village garden. Thankfully, due to the fortunate location of the debris, no casualties were reported. However, residents recounted a harrowing experience. One villager described the scene: "It was around 1:40 am when the missile landed here. It was horrifying! The impact shook the doors and windows of the entire village. It felt like an earthquake."

The Iranian attack on Israel, launched on Saturday night, involved a barrage of approximately 300 drones and cruise missiles. However, the Israeli military demonstrated its air defense capabilities, successfully intercepting 99% of the incoming projectiles.

The ripple effects of the regional conflict extended beyond Israel's borders. A Fly Erbil passenger flight originating from Denmark and bound for Erbil was forced to divert its course due to the closure of Iraqi airspace and restrictions implemented across the region in response to the Iranian attack.

The airline's authorized director confirmed that the plane would return to Erbil the following day. Passengers onboard the Copenhagen-Erbil flight experienced a detour as they were rerouted to Sofia airport in Bulgaria due

to the sudden airspace restrictions. "Our plane, currently at Sofia airport, will return to Erbil today," stated Lawand Mammoudi, authorized director of Fly Erbil.

The attacks also caused disruptions within the Kurdistan Region itself. The Shaqlawa Electricity Distribution Department (SED) reported a partial power outage in the town of Shaqlawa, attributing it to the downing of Iranian drones in the area. Repair crews swiftly addressed the issue, and in a statement issued on Sunday, April 14, the Shaqlawa Electricity Distribution Directorate confirmed, "A drone incident in Shaqlawa caused a power outage in sections of the town center," as explained by Azad Ahmad, head of the repair department at Shaqlawa electricity.

The landing of Iranian missile debris in the



Kurdish village, Akoyan, serves as a stark reminder of the potential for civilian casualties in these escalating regional conflicts. While the incident in Akoyan resulted in no injuries, it highlights the very real dangers posed by such attacks and the need for a diplomatic resolution

to the ongoing tensions. This latest incident underscores the rising tensions in the region. It follows the targeting of the Iranian consulate in Damascus on April 1, 2024, which claimed the lives of seven individuals, including two commanders and several Iranian military advisers.

During that attack, Iranian drones and missiles traversed the airspace of the Kurdistan Region, prompting the US to activate its air defense systems stationed in Erbil and Sulaimani to intercept them.

Kurdistan's Tourism Vision: 20 million visitors key to economic growth

Sirwan Tofiq, the Director of Marketing at the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Tourism Board, has unveiled an ambitious blueprint to invigorate tourism across the region, setting a lofty goal of enticing a staggering 20 million visitors. Tofiq underscored the newfound commitment to the tourism sector, which has been amplified under the auspices of the ninth cabinet of the KRG.

In an exclusive interview with Kurdish media, Tofiq elaborated on the comprehensive eight-year plan meticulously devised by the tourism board, which has garnered resounding support from the Prime Minister Masrour Barzani. This strategic roadmap outlines a multifaceted approach aimed at steadily escalating tourist influx through a series of targeted initiatives and objectives, all while fortifying the region's economic infrastructure to sustain such growth.

Reflecting on past achievements,



highlighted the remarkable progress witnessed in recent years. In 2022, the Kurdistan Region welcomed two million tourists, a figure that skyrocketed to over six million in 2023. Buoyed by

this momentum, the region is poised to eclipse the eight million mark in tourist arrivals this year, a trajectory meticulously studied and endorsed by the Kurdistan Regional Government.

Tofiq expressed profound appreciation for the unwavering dedication of tourism professionals hailing from various cities and towns across the Kurdistan Region. Their tireless efforts, he empha-

sized, serve as the bedrock for the government's overarching vision of reinvigorating the tourism sector and harnessing its vast potential for economic prosperity.

Acknowledging the po-

tential challenges that lie ahead, Tofiq underscored the critical role of meteorological factors in shaping tourism trends. He noted that the forecasted prolonged spring, owing to heavy rains, is anticipated to lure even more travelers to the region. In anticipation of such developments, Tofiq revealed the implementation of robust contingency plans aimed at mitigating any adverse impacts and ensuring seamless visitor experiences.

With a steadfast commitment to strategic planning and collaborative endeavors, the Kurdistan Regional Government is steadfast in its resolve to position the region as a premier tourist destination on the regional stage. By attracting millions of visitors annually and fostering sustainable growth, the region stands poised to reap substantial economic dividends while showcasing its rich cultural heritage and natural splendor to the world.

Erbil-Baghdad relations to see positive changes with PM Sudani's visit to Washington

"Future of Iraq depends on good relations between federal government and the Kurdistan Region."

A military expert says that Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shiah Sudani will continue to resolve issues with the Kurdistan Region, which is a great thing and an important initiative to resolve all issues while saying that some parties are worried about the rapprochement between Erbil and Baghdad.

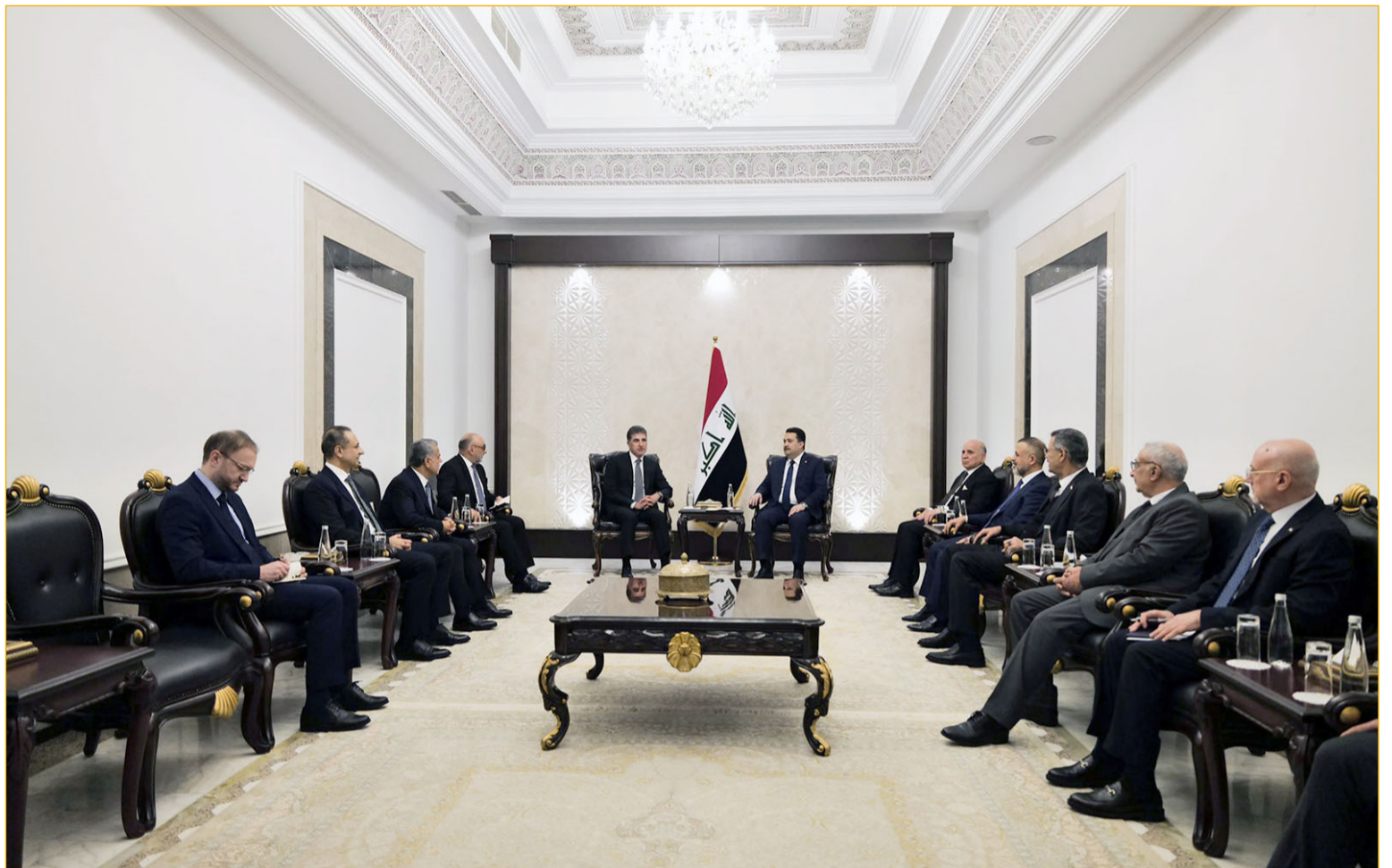
Sarmad Bayati, a military expert, stated that Iraq still needs coalition forces, controlling Iraqi airspace is difficult, so Iraq constantly needs coalition forces to be fully trained to control its airspace.

"The main reason for Sudani's visit to the United States is to activate the security framework agreement between Iraq and the United States, so the issue now is the task of replacing the international coalition forces, as well as the establishment of a bilateral military committee," according to the expert.

"Some areas in Iraq are constantly in need of monitoring, so the coalition must now take the role of monitoring the dangerous areas of Iraq, Iraq will learn from the experience and learn how to control these dangerous areas," he said.

"The two governments, the federal and regional, have a strong relationship," he said.

"The Sudani government will continue to resolve issues with the Kurdistan Region, which is a great



thing and an important initiative to resolve all issues," he said.

He added that some parties are worried about the rapprochement between Erbil and Baghdad.

Justin Russell: Erbil-Washington relations will be stronger in the future

US foreign policy analyst Justin Russell says the Kurdistan Region has a special position and is an

ally of the United States, and relations between Erbil and Washington will be strengthened in the

The US foreign policy analyst said that the Kurdistan Regional Government has a long-standing alliance with the United States, especially during the era of ISIS, this alliance was very reflected.

Russell said that the situation of relations between the Kurdistan Region and

the United States is at the most important stage at the moment.

"The people of the Kurdistan Region and the Peshmerga forces see the United States as a friend and the United States sees them as an ally, which will be reflected in the Sudani's visit to Washington," he said.

The US foreign policy analyst pointed out that the Kurdistan Regional

Government has always shown its importance to the United States and the American people, and the American people know this fact.

"It is the responsibility of the State Department to reflect the importance of the Kurdistan Region in US foreign policy and to show the American people that the Kurdistan Region is important and that it is a factor of stability in the

Middle East and the region," he said.

The US foreign policy analyst said that the future of Iraq depends on a comprehensive framework, in which the Kurdistan Region has a comprehensive role in this framework, and the future of Iraq depends on good relations with the Kurdistan Region.

Genocide of The Kurdish People

It has been 36 years since the Kurdish people were genocided by the former Ba'athist regimes, one of the bloodiest and most chauvinistic in history.

April 14 is the anniversary of the genocide of the Kurdish people in Iraq. In this genocide known as AB3 Anfal, about 182,000 civilians, including children, adults, men and women, went missing, they were buried alive in the deserts of central and southern Iraq. Many of their bodies have not been found

and their relatives are waiting for their return.

The insensitivity of the Iraqi governments that followed 2003, who were unable to provide compensation to the relatives of the victims and who failed to carry out their moral, national, and constitutional obligations, exacerbates the pain of the wounds on this day.

Unfortunately, this chauvinist mentality remains and has bad intentions towards the political, national and cultural rights

that the Iraqi constitution has given to the Kurdish people within the framework of a federal system within the Kurdistan Region. Therefore, they are always trying to weaken the political and economic position of the Kurdistan Region, they want to restore the centralism and dictatorship that once brutally genocided the Kurdish people.

By: Sara Sultan



Iraqi Prime Minister Sudani embarks on crucial U.S. visit, eyes enhanced relations with Washington



KRG's diplomatic triumph: U.S. visit sets stage for Baghdad-Erbil rapprochement

The impending journey of Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shiah Sudani to the United States on April 15th marks a pivotal moment in diplomatic engagements, as Baghdad seeks to strengthen ties with Washington and consolidate regional stability. Sudani's visit follows closely on the heels of a significant diplomatic overture by Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Prime Minister Masrour Barzani, whose recent visit to the United States catalyzed efforts to resolve longstanding disputes between Erbil and Baghdad. Against a backdrop of escalating tensions and lingering grievances, the parallel visits underscore a shared commitment to fostering dialogue and cooperation between Iraqi and Kurdish authorities, intending to foster intra-national cohesion and advance mutual interests.

Iraqi PM Sudani embarked on a pivotal journey to the United States on April 15th, undertaking a mission laden with diplomatic significance. His departure from Iraq, orchestrated at the official invitation of U.S.

President Joe Biden, symbolizes a concerted effort to fortify the strategic alliance between the two nations. Sudani's visit holds the promise of fostering deeper collaboration across a spectrum of political, economic, and security imperatives.

The White House, in a statement issued on March 22nd, affirmed President Biden's anticipation of hosting Prime Minister Sudani for high-level discussions. The agenda for their meeting is multifaceted, spanning issues ranging from counterterrorism efforts to economic reforms and energy sector revitalization in Iraq. Central to the discourse will be a reaffirmation of the strategic partnership outlined in existing bilateral agreements, including the landmark Strategic Framework Agreement and the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). These foundational accords, signed in 2008, delineate a comprehensive framework for cooperation encompassing security, governance, and socio-economic development.

Of particular signifi-

cance is the convergence of interests between Baghdad and Washington in combating the scourge of ISIS. The United States, having led a multinational coalition against the terrorist organization for nearly a decade, seeks to recalibrate its military mission in the region while maintaining pressure on extremist elements. Discussions between President Biden and Prime Minister Sudani are expected to chart a course for sustained cooperation in eradicating the remnants of ISIS and stabilizing conflict-affected areas in Iraq.

Moreover, economic revitalization and energy independence loom large on the agenda, underscoring Iraq's aspirations for sustainable development and self-sufficiency. The exploration of avenues for investment and trade cooperation between the two nations holds the promise of bolstering Iraq's nascent economy and fostering job creation. Additionally, initiatives aimed at modernizing Iraq's energy infrastructure and diversifying its ener-

gy sources are likely to feature prominently in bilateral discussions, to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and harness renewable energy alternatives.

The participation of representatives from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in the upcoming meetings attests to the broader objective of fostering intra-national cohesion and addressing longstanding grievances between Erbil and Baghdad. The Kurdish issue, a perennial flashpoint in Iraqi politics, has witnessed incremental progress in recent years, buoyed by diplomatic overtures and international mediation. Prime Minister Masrour Barzani's recent visit to the United States, hailed as a catalyst for dialogue and reconciliation, has paved the way for constructive engagement between Kurdish and Iraqi counterparts.

Safin Dizayee, Head of the Kurdistan Regional Government's Foreign Relations Office, hailed the positive trajectory of Kurdish-Iraqi relations, citing tangible outcomes arising from Barzani's

diplomatic foray. Dizayee underscored the role of international pressure in incentivizing Baghdad to address grievances and uphold the principles of federalism enshrined in Iraq's constitution. The resolution of disputes, both political and economic, through dialogue and negotiation, exemplifies a maturing of intergovernmental relations and a departure from erstwhile confrontational dynamics.

Nevertheless, challenges persist, particularly in the realm of judicial oversight and constitutional governance. Dizayee's critique of the Federal Court's encroachment on the prerogatives of elected institutions underscores broader concerns regarding institutional integrity and the rule of law in Iraq. The need for a judicious balance between judicial independence and constitutional fidelity remains paramount in safeguarding the rights and liberties of all Iraqi citizens, irrespective of ethnicity or creed.

Looking ahead, the impending discussions between Iraqi and Kurdish

officials during Prime Minister Sudani's visit to the United States are poised to address a gamut of pressing issues, chief among them the resurgence of ISIS and the enduring presence of coalition forces in Iraq. The imperative of ensuring security and stability in the Kurdistan Region, while navigating the complexities of regional geopolitics, underscores the strategic calculus underpinning Iraq's engagement with its international partners.

Prime Minister Sudani's visit to the United States represents a seminal moment in Iraq's diplomatic overtures, offering a beacon of hope amidst the challenges of nation-building and regional turmoil. As Iraqi and Kurdish leaders converge in Washington for deliberations that transcend parochial interests and narrow agendas, the promise of a more prosperous, secure, federal, and cohesive Iraq beckons on the horizon.

APIKUR calls for KRG oil resumption amid Iraq's \$14.5 billion oil revenue loss

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shiah Sudani's upcoming visit to the White House presents a pivotal opportunity to break the deadlock surrounding the resumption of oil exports from the Kurdistan Region, according to APIKUR. The energy firm expressed its unwavering commitment to its contracts with the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and welcomed any initiative aimed at reviving oil exports.

"We firmly believe that a mutually beneficial solution can be reached, one that serves the interests of all Iraqis," stated APIKUR, emphasizing the potential removal of a significant barrier to foreign direct investment in Iraq. The company remains optimistic that the high-level discussions between PM Sudani and President Biden will galvanize collective action, facilitating a swift resolution to the impasse and the resumption of full-scale oil production and exports from the Kurdistan Region.

However, despite Turkey's official announcement in October 2023 of



its readiness to resume oil exports via the Iraq-Turkey pipeline, exports remain suspended, exacerbating losses in the global energy market. The absence of an agreement on oil exports has resulted in staggering revenue losses

of \$14.5 billion for Iraq, affecting employment opportunities and investment prospects, particularly in the Kurdistan Region.

APIKUR underscored the urgency of reaching a collaborative and mutually beneficial resolution

among the Iraqi government, the KRG, and international oil companies to reignite oil exports. A robust oil and gas sector not only attracts foreign investment but also serves the collective interests of all Iraqis.

In March 2024, the United States imported 500,000 barrels of oil per day from Iraq, excluding the Kurdistan Region, despite its significant investment of \$300 million in the development of the Kurdistan Region's oil and

gas sector. This underscores the critical need for a comprehensive solution that addresses the interests of all stakeholders and restores Iraq's position as a key player in the global energy landscape.

The 'Eid Al-Fitr in The Kurdistan Region

The Kurdish people, as one of the oldest indigenous peoples of the Kurdistan region, has a number of cultural and ethnic characteristics that have been preserved throughout history. Islam, which has been accepted and followed by the Kurdish people for more than a thousand years, has become part of the Kurdish identity and has been mixed with cultural aspects.

Generally speaking, Islam and the ethnic and cultural traits of the Kurdish people have interacted in both directions. Since all other countries have the same qualities, we may observe that, during Islamic religious festivals, there are disparities between them.

Among the Kurds, social ties remain strong and family rules are still strongly followed. People travel, visit their relatives and gather on occasions. Therefore, when Islam comes and emphasizes



strengthening social relations and considers visiting as a blessing and reward, it quickly integrates with Kurdish culture.

March 11 was declared the first day of the holy month of Ramadan in the

Kurdistan Region, after Muslims fast for 30 days, abstaining from food and drink from morning until the evening prayer.

On the morning of the first day of 'Eid, many Muslims in the Kurdistan

Region went to mosques, after listening to the 'Eid sermon and then performing 'Eid prayers, people all in mosques shake hands, hug each other, kiss each other and forgiving each other.

Several Muslims in the Kurdistan Region visited mosques early on the morning of the first day of 'Eid. Following the sermon and the 'Eid prayers, everyone in the mosque shook hands, gave each

other hugs, kissed, and expressed forgiveness to one another.

Then when they return home they eat the holiday dish, which is more common among the Kurdish people who prepare a special holiday dish early in the morning. After that, everyone changes into their new outfits, and gather in the streets to visit each other and distribute sweets. This is very well seen in the Kurdistan Region, which has social security, stability and social coexistence, even non-Muslim citizens participate in it and congratulate their Muslim friends and neighbors, like many Muslims congratulate the holidays of other religions. This is due to the culture of coexistence that has existed in Kurdistan for thousands of years, all different religions have lived together peacefully.

By: Sara Sultan

The Federal Supreme Court and Constitutional legitimacy



By *Mohammed Rahman Ahmed*

After the fall of the former Ba'ath regime, Iraqis enshrined a federal system in the 2005 permanent constitution. This is in order to protect the rights of different constituents and prevent the repetition of dictatorship and strict centralism in governance. In every federal system, there is a federal high court to protect the constitution and interpret its texts, resolving disputes between the federal government and the regional governments. The main purpose of this court is to prevent the domination of the majority over the minority. Because in both the other powers (legislative and executive), the majority dominates, therefore, without a higher and independent authority, the federal system based on participation will have no value. To this end, the full independence of this court and its members is emphasized, as they are the guardians of any federal system. Therefore, Article 47 of the Iraqi Permanent Constitution provides for the separation and independence of all three powers (judiciary, legislature, and executive). On the contrary, if this court does not maintain its independence, in other words support the dominant majority, the federal system and its political stability will be threatened.

In this regard, if we take a position and evaluate the Supreme Federal Court of Iraq in terms of its constitutionality and independence, it is problematic. Article 92 of the Iraqi Constitution, paragraphs 1 and 2,



emphasises the independence of this court. The first paragraph states that the Federal Supreme Court is an independent judiciary in terms of finance and administration. The second paragraph emphasises the appointment of its members by the House of Representatives by a two-thirds vote. In reality, however, the members of the Iraqi Federal Court are appointed by political agreement between the dominant parties and the dominant communities outside the Iraqi parliament. Therefore, the existence of this court is in itself unconstitutional because it is not established by a constitutional procedure that reflects its independence. Thus, all its decisions must become null and void in terms of legal and constitutional value. The constitution also defines the powers, scope, and specialties of the

Federal Court, which generally include monitoring the constitutionality of laws, interpreting constitutional texts, and resolving disputes between the federal government and the governments of regions or provinces not organised within a region. Recently, however, the Federal Court has issued a number of decisions against the Kurdistan Region, some of which are contrary to the constitution and some of which are not within its jurisdiction. This further underscores the lack of impartiality of this Court. When the Federal Court rules that the salaries of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) employees must be paid directly by the Baghdad government, it is a clear violation of the constitution, because the constitution enshrines the federal system and voted on it as a social contract. In

every federal system, there are two types of public sector employees and salary distribution: regional employees who are paid by the regions and federal employees who are paid by the federal government. Therefore, the payment of salaries directly by the Baghdad government violates the principle of federalism enshrined in the constitution. Also, when the Federal Court decides to determine the number of seats in the Kurdistan Regional Parliament, determine the constituency, and decide whether the quota seats are in the Kurdistan Regional Parliament, these are again violations of the texts of the Iraqi Constitution. According to the constitution, these issues are not within the jurisdiction of the Federal Court but within the jurisdiction of the Kurdistan Region. According to Article

121 of the Iraqi Constitution, the Kurdistan Region has the right to form its own government, the three branches of power—the judiciary, the legislature, and the executive—and how to shape it, provided it does not conflict with the Iraqi Constitution. These issues are not contrary to the Iraqi constitution. Instead, it is the Federal Court that has violated the constitutional powers of the Kurdistan Region and is issuing laws instead of the legal powers of the Kurdistan Region. This is while the quota system exists in the Iraqi parliament, which is allocated nine seats. Christians: five seats; Ezide: one; Failis: one; Shabak: one; and Sabi'a: one seat!

Finally, we can say that the Federal Court, as its name suggests, is responsible for protecting the federalism and union of the coun-

try on the basis of the country's constitution. In order to achieve the main task and goal for which it was established, it must be completely independent and not support any party, constituent unit, or government against another constituent unit or government inside the country. The Federal Court in Iraq is both unconstitutional in its existence and formation, and its decisions are unconstitutional. It has lost its independence and impartiality. If it continues like this and is not corrected, it will be the end of Iraq, the federal system, and political stability. Because one of the main pillars of any federal system is the independence of the Federal Court in arbitrating, interpreting texts, and issuing decisions, If this pillar collapses, federalism will collapse.

Poverty levels in Iraq and continued devaluation of its currency



By **Jawad Qadir**

Historically, the Iraqi dinar has maintained a relatively high value compared to neighboring currencies such as the Iranian rial, the Turkish lira, and the Syrian pound. Iraq imports billions of dollars' worth of goods from neighboring nations and the global market. Consequently, any devaluation of the dinar against the dollar will directly translate into higher prices for goods and services, given that approximately 90% of the demands of the country's roughly 42 million inhabitants are met through imports. (World Bank: 2020)

Furthermore, a significant portion of transactions in markets are conducted in dollars, leading to losses for traders when converting dinars to dollars. Consequently, the dinar's value will decline, its purchasing power will diminish, and the overall cost of living will escalate, while a quarter of Iraq's population resides below the poverty threshold.

Over the past two decades, the Iraqi dinar has faced several challenging periods of devaluation. The initial phase of devaluation occurred after 2003, following the change in political regime and the end of Ba'ath Party rule, which coincided with the conversion of the Iraqi dinar's value in both Swiss and printed forms to the new currency. The burden was particularly heavy for the Kurdistan Region, experiencing the impact twice. Despite some alterations, the dinar's value against the dollar remained relatively stable for over ten years.

In the second phase, towards the end of 2020, the central bank, supported by international financial institutions and the government, devalued the Iraqi dinar against the dollar by approximately 25%. This move by the central bank and the Ministry of Finance aimed to address the treasury's cash deficit, while also capitalizing on the surge in oil prices. Consequently, Iraq was able to augment its foreign and domestic reserves, as well as its gold reserves, over the past two years. Foreign exchange reserves have increased to around \$100 billion, while gold reserves have reached a size of 132 tons. (US Treasury: 2023)

The alterations have led to a surge in inflation in Iraq, reaching approximately 25%-30% over the past two years. This has resulted in a decrease in the purchasing power of the dinar, placing a heavier burden on wage earners, employees, and the impoverished and middle classes within Iraqi society.

The third phase of modifications became apparent in the final two months of 2022, coinciding with the establishment of the new cabinet under Mohammed Shia Sudani. These adjustments were prompted by pressure and recommendations from officials at the US Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve. The supply of dollars dwindled to less than half of the previous year's supply, causing an uptick in demand for the dollar. Despite the central bank's steadfast exchange rate policy in the supply, demand continued to rise. Consequently, the dinar devalued once more, losing 15% of its purchasing power. (Iraqi Central Bank: 2023)

Although central bank authorities assert that the situation will normalize in due course, it appears that control over the currency market is slipping from the central bank's grasp. The cumulative impact of these modifications on the value of the Iraqi dinar will exacerbate inflation, imposing additional hardships on the populace at large, particularly the underprivileged and salaried workers.

Kurdish Terebinth Coffee

"Kahve Qazwan," or Kurdish Terebinth coffee, is a traditional beverage that is well-liked



in the Kurdish culture. This special kind of coffee is created from roasted terebinth seeds, which come from the Pistachio terebinths' tree. Native to the Mediterranean region, which includes Kurdistan, is the terebinth tree.

The terebinth seeds are gathered, dried, and then roasted to make Kurdish Terebinth coffee. The seeds are ground into a fine powder after roasting. Traditionally, brewing involves bringing water to a boil and then adding ground terebinth coffee to it. Typically, it is made in a little coffee pot known as a "cezve" or a special pot called a "dalla."

Coffee from Kurdish Terebinth has a unique flavor and scent. It is well-known for having an earthy, nutty flavor with a hint of bitterness. Some perceive its flavor to be considerably distinct from ordinary coffee, while others relate it to that of regular coffee.

Terebinth coffee is a popular beverage at parties and festivals and is frequently served as a sign of hospitality in Kurdish

culture. In the past, it was served in little cups known as "fincan" or "kahve fincani." You can add sugar based on your own preferences.

Although Terebinth coffee is a traditional beverage of the Kurdish people, it might not be easily found outside of the Kurdish regions. To taste its distinct flavor, though, you can attempt roasting and preparing terebinth seeds at home if you have access to them.

In terms of potential health benefits, terebinth coffee contains certain nutrients and bioactive compounds that may offer some advantages. Terebinth coffee contains specific minerals and bioactive chemicals that may have some benefits for your health.

Here are a few potential advantages. Antioxidant qualities, polyphenols and flavonoids, which are present in terebinth coffee, are recognized for their antioxidant qualities.

Antioxidants assist in shielding the body from the damaging effects of free radicals and oxidative

stress. Digestive health, according to certain traditional beliefs, terebinth coffee may help with digestion and have some moderate laxative effects.

Though there isn't much scientific proof to back up this assertion, each person's experience may differ. Nutrient content, dietary fiber, vitamins, and minerals are among the nutrients found in terebinth coffee. These can enhance general health and be a part of a balanced diet. Caffeine-free option: Terebinth coffee is naturally caffeine-free, making it a good option for anyone who are sensitive to the stimulant or wish to avoid its effects.

-Keep in mind that while terebinth coffee can make a pleasant substitute for ordinary coffee, individual differences may exist in its effects and health advantages. It's wise to pay attention to your body's signals and make decisions based on your own dietary requirements and preferences.

By: Sara Sultan

Kurdistan Matters



By Dr. Tyler Fisher

As the previous issue of the Kurdish Globe reported on March 18, formal plans are underway to establish a new university in Shingal. A university in Shingal? The phrase appears to be a fitting stand-in for the English idiom “castles in the air,” emblematic of a highly aspirational yet highly unlikely project with little basis in reality. A university in Shingal: holding broad perspectives will determine whether this is ultimately a quixotic quest or a truly attainable initiative.

The name “Shingal” itself underscores the deeply contested nature of the area: “Shingal” reflects the Kurdish version of the name, while “Sinjar,” the more internationally recognized rendering, is the Arabic name for the mountain, the town, and the district that share this designation. The area has long been disputed between the KRG and Iraq’s central government, as well as among international forces vying for influence in Shingal, which has become an arena for a proxy struggle between Iran and Turkey.

I frequently reflect on the fascinating etymology of the word “university.” Among other things, in the deep prehistory of this word, the component parts of “university” convey the sense of turning (versus) as one (uni). Like the universe, whose elements circle in different orbits, spin on different axes, and may even turn in different directions, there is nevertheless coherence in the whole. The same is true for the ideal of a university. Can such an ideal be realized among the rubble, among the smoldering conflicts in Shingal? I would offer several principles by which the founding of this new university can prove not only possible but also resound-



ingly positive.

First, set Shingal University (as the planned institution is provisionally called) in the context of the historical university enterprise. Doing so affords genuine optimism against the odds. Ever since the “university,” as an ideal and an institution, emerged in the twelfth century, it has demonstrated a remarkable degree of adaptability allied with stability. In the midst of profound upheavals, the University has adapted and endured. I recall seeing remnants of World War II blackout curtains in the windows of the library at Oxford’s Magdalen College where I studied six decades after that war had ended. The blitzkrieg could not halt higher education. On the dark walls of the College’s cellar, one could still see traces of chalk where instructors and students continued their work even as they took shelter during air raids. When I worked for the KRG’s Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in 2014 and 2015, I saw flocks of white sheep return blackened from the

smoke of the battlefield where the Peshmerga were pushing back the so-called Islamic State’s incursions. And still the Kurdish universities found ways to maintain their endeavors in teaching and learning. The university has shown itself to be resilient, and that model can hold true for Shingal as well, in terms of ideals and practicalities.

Seize the opportunity for real innovation. The founding of a new university offers a unique opportunity for challenging some of the rigid categories we have come to take for granted, such as the distinction between “hard” and “soft” skills. Interdisciplinary, cross-domain thinking must characterize a twenty-first-century university. In the context of Shingal especially, a university can serve as a crucial nexus for memorializing the past, understanding the present, and shaping the future.

Prioritize local leadership and community initiative. Roughly 200 acres have been set aside in the town of Snune, north of Mount Sinjar, for the proposed site of the university, but

an effective university must be more local than the land on which it sits. A barrage of external interventions, ranging from the well-meaning to the malicious, have impacted Shingal over the past two decades. Let this university be not another outsider-led, top-down venture. Rather, tap into existing infrastructure and prior initiatives, such as the truly excellent work of Sinjar Academy, to create a responsive, authentic, educational experience for students of the region. Including community representatives in planning and executing this project is key for its long-term success. Indeed, this is the only way in which a meaningful university, worthy of that name, may yet rise from the wreckage the Islamic State left in its wake.

While prioritizing local leadership, be sure to include international collaborators from the beginning. Again, I think of the early development of the University of Oxford. Oxford’s local gatherings of manuscripts and scholars drew intellectuals from across Europe, and this interna-

tional involvement is what really fuelled the beginnings of the university. If a university in the Middle Ages gained so much from global partnerships, this dimension is all the more important today, facilitated by the greater ease of communication and travel. This year, August will mark the tenth anniversary of the Yazidi genocide. The occasion of that anniversary, for good or ill, will again turn the world’s attention to Shingal. Harness the momentum of that intensified international attention as plans take shape for the university.

If Shingal University does indeed materialize, it will be a significant step forward, for it will go beyond rebuilding to building a consequential institution, transcending reconstruction to extend the construction of an innovative enterprise. This could constitute a substantive investment in Shingal’s future. Kurdistan matters in higher education. In Shingal, we can turn an epicenter of violence into a vital homeland for educational progress.

Kurds... International Recognition and Engagement

Navigating Identity, Autonomy, and Representation



By *Saadula Aqrawi*

Political Stability, Governance, Economic Growth and Diversification, Infrastructure Development, Education and Healthcare, Cultural and Social Development:

It's clear that the Kurdish population in Iraq has long played a significant role in shaping the country's political landscape, advocating for greater autonomy, recognition of their rights, and representation within the Iraqi state. Despite historical challenges and periods of conflict, Kurds have emerged as a key political force, influencing decision-making processes and contributing to efforts aimed at building a more inclusive and democratic Iraq.

I believe that the complex relationship between Kurds and the political system in Iraq, examining their aspirations, achievements, and ongoing struggles for representation and autonomy. The Kurds, an ethnic people with a distinct language, culture, and history, have inhabited the mountainous regions of northern Iraq for centuries. Despite their longstanding presence in the region, Kurds have often faced marginalization, discrimination, and repression at the hands of successive Iraqi governments, particularly under the rule of Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist regime. Following the fall of the Ba'athist regime in 2003, Kurds in Iraq embarked on a journey towards greater autonomy and recognition within the framework of a federal democratic state. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) was established, granting Kurds a degree of self-governance and control over their affairs, including security, economy, and natural resources.

We know that the Kurds have been active participants in Iraq's political

process, participating in parliamentary elections and forming alliances with other political blocs to advance their interests. Power-sharing arrangements, enshrined in the Iraqi constitution, have provided Kurds with representation at the national level, ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making processes.

Despite their participation in Iraq's political system, Kurds continue to face challenges and tensions, particularly in areas such as revenue-sharing, resource management, and disputed territories. Disputes between the KRG and the central government in Baghdad have at times led to political deadlock, exacerbating divisions and hindering progress on key issues.

The Kurdish political landscape in Iraq is also shaped by regional dynamics and geopolitical considerations, including relations with neighboring countries such as Turkey, Iran, and Syria, all of which have sizable Kurdish populations and their own Kurdish political movements. Balancing these external pressures with domestic aspirations for autonomy and self-determination remains a delicate task for Kurdish leaders.

Despite the challenges and complexities, Kurds remain committed to participating in Iraq's political system and contributing to the country's democratic transition and nation-building efforts. As Iraq continues to grapple with issues of governance, security, and national reconciliation, Kurds have a vital role to play in shaping the country's future and ensuring the rights and interests of all Iraqis are respected and protected.

Yes, the Kurdish population in Iraq has long been a significant political actor, advocating for greater autonomy, representation, and recognition within the framework of a federal democratic

state. While challenges and tensions persist, Kurds remain committed to participating in Iraq's political system and contributing to efforts aimed at building a more inclusive and democratic society. As Iraq continues its journey towards stability and prosperity, Kurds will continue to play a pivotal role in shaping the country's political landscape and advancing the aspirations of their community.

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq, often referred to as the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), has made significant strides in various fields since its establishment in the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War. Despite facing numerous challenges, including internal conflict, economic hardship, and regional instability, the Kurdistan Region has managed to achieve notable progress in areas such as governance, economy, education, and infrastructure. The key achievements of the Kurdistan Region, showcasing its resilience, innovation, and determination to build a prosperous future for its people.

One of the most significant achievements of the Kurdistan Region is its relative political stability and effective governance structures. Despite the broader political challenges facing Iraq, the Kurdistan Region has maintained a level of security and stability that has enabled it to focus on economic development and nation-building efforts.

The Kurdistan Region has experienced robust economic growth in recent years, driven by its rich natural resources, including oil and gas reserves. The KRG has implemented policies to attract foreign investment and promote private sector development, leading to the emergence of thriving industries in sectors such as construction, tourism, and agriculture.

Infrastructure develop-

ment has been a priority for the Kurdistan Region, with significant investments made in roads, bridges, airports, and utilities. Major projects, such as the construction of the Erbil International Airport and the expansion of the Dukan Dam, have enhanced connectivity and improved the quality of life for residents.

The Kurdistan Region has made significant investments in education and healthcare, with a focus on improving access to quality services for its population. The establishment of new schools, universities, and medical facilities has helped to raise literacy rates and improve health outcomes, contributing to human capital development and socioeconomic progress.

The Kurdistan Region has also made strides in cultural and social development, promoting cultural heritage preservation, artistic expression, and social cohesion. Efforts to celebrate Kurdish identity and language have fostered a sense of pride and unity among the region's diverse population.

The Kurdistan Region has gained increasing recognition and engagement on the international stage, with growing diplomatic ties and partnerships with foreign governments, organizations, and businesses. The KRG's participation in international forums and trade exhibitions has helped to showcase the region's potential and attract investment and support from the global community.

The achievements of the Kurdistan Region are a testament to the resilience, ingenuity, and determination of its people and leadership. Despite facing numerous challenges, the Kurdistan Region has managed to build a thriving economy, invest in critical infrastructure, and improve social and cultural development. As the region continues its journey towards prosper-

ity and stability, it is essential to build on these achievements, address remaining challenges, and work towards a brighter future for all residents of the Kurdistan Region.

I believe that in the complex political landscape of Iraq, the decisions of the Federal Court hold significant implications, particularly for the Kurds and also for the minorities in Iraq. Over the years, the Iraqi Federal Court has issued rulings on various contentious issues that directly affect the rights and interests of the Kurdish population. The impact of Iraqi Federal Court decisions on Kurds, examining their implications on autonomy, governance, and identity. The relationship between Kurds and the Iraqi state has been characterized by tensions and struggles for autonomy and recognition. Since the establishment of the post-Saddam Iraq, Kurds have sought to secure their rights and protect their identity within the framework of a federal democratic state.

One of the most contentious issues addressed by the Iraqi Federal Court is the status of disputed territories, including areas claimed by both the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and the central government in Baghdad. Federal Court decisions on the demarcation of boundaries and administration of these territories have often been met with resistance and protests from Kurdish leaders and communities. Control over oil and natural resources has been a source of contention between the KRG and the central government, with disputes over revenue-sharing, production rights, and contracts. Federal Court decisions on oil-related matters, such as the legality of independent Kurdish oil exports, have had far-reaching implications for the Kurdish economy and autonomy.

The Iraqi Constitution of 2005 enshrines the

rights of Kurds and other minority groups and provides for a federal system of governance. However, interpretations of constitutional provisions and the extent of Kurdish autonomy have been subject to debate and legal challenges. Federal Court decisions on constitutional matters have shaped the scope of Kurdish self-governance and the balance of power between Erbil and Baghdad.

Kurdish identity and language rights have been another area of contention addressed by the Iraqi Federal Court. Rulings on issues such as the use of Kurdish language in official documents, education, and public institutions have had implications for the preservation and promotion of Kurdish cultural heritage and identity. The Federal Court decisions on issues affecting Kurds have significant implications for political stability, governance, and social cohesion in Iraq. While some rulings have sought to clarify legal frameworks and resolve disputes, others have exacerbated tensions and fueled grievances among Kurdish communities, highlighting the challenges of achieving consensus and reconciliation in a diverse and divided society. The decisions of the Iraqi Federal Court play a crucial role in shaping the rights, interests, and aspirations of Kurds in Iraq. While these rulings have the potential to promote legal clarity, protect minority rights, and foster democratic governance, they also pose challenges and risks in exacerbating existing tensions and grievances. As Iraq continues its journey towards stability and democracy, it is essential to address the concerns of all communities, including Kurds, and uphold the principles of justice, equality, and inclusivity.

Unlocking the Treasures, Exploring Tourism in the Middle East

Women's Rights and Activism, Political Representation, Challenges and Resilience:



By **Dania Hakim**

The Nestled amidst the scenic landscapes of northern Iraq, the Kurdistan Region stands as a hidden gem waiting to be discovered by travelers seeking adventure, culture, and natural beauty. Despite decades of conflict and instability, the region has emerged as a vibrant tourism destination, offering a tapestry of experiences that captivate visitors from around the world. In this article, we delve into the burgeoning tourism industry in Kurdistan Region, exploring its attractions, initiatives, and potential for growth. Kurdistan Region's diverse terrain, ranging from rugged mountains to verdant valleys and picturesque lakes, provides a stunning backdrop for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers. The region is home to breathtaking natural attractions such as the majestic Zagros Mountains, the serene waters of Lake Dukan, and the pristine landscapes of Rawanduz Canyon. These natural wonders offer opportunities for hiking, camping, birdwatching, and other outdoor activities, attracting adventure seekers and eco-tourists alike. Rich in history and cultural heritage, Kurdistan Region boasts a wealth of archaeological sites, ancient ruins, and historical landmarks that tell the story of its illustrious past.

marks that tell the story of its illustrious past.

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Erbil Citadel, the ancient city of Lalish, and the historic town of Akre are just a few examples of the region's cultural treasures. Visitors can explore centuries-old fortresses, mosques, churches, and bazaars, immersing themselves in the region's vibrant history and traditions.

One of the most compelling aspects of tourism in Kurdistan Region is the hospitality and warmth of its people. Kurdish hospitality, known as "mehman nawazi," is legendary, with locals welcoming visitors with open arms and genuine kindness. Travelers can experience the hospitality firsthand through homestays, cultural exchanges, and traditional Kurdish meals, gaining insights into the local customs, traditions, and way of life. Recognizing the potential of tourism as a driver of economic growth and development, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has invested in infrastructure and tourism initiatives to enhance the visitor experience and promote the region as a premier tourism destination. These initiatives include, Development of Tourism In-



frastructure: Investments in roads, airports, hotels, and tourist facilities to improve accessibility and accommodation options for travelers. Cultural and Heritage Preservation: Preservation and restoration efforts to safeguard Kurdistan's cultural heritage sites, museums, and historical landmarks for future generations.

Promotion and Marketing: Marketing campaigns, tourism fairs, and promotional events to raise awareness of Kurdistan Region's tourism offerings and attract domestic and international visitors. Tourist Services and Guides: Training programs for tour guides, hospitality staff, and tourism professionals to ensure high-quality services and memorable experiences for visitors. Despite

its potential, tourism development in Kurdistan Region faces challenges such as political instability, security concerns, and limited international recognition. However, these challenges are accompanied by opportunities for collaboration, investment, and innovation to promote sustainable tourism practices and unlock the region's full tourism potential. Kurdistan Region's tourism industry is poised for growth, driven by its natural beauty, cultural heritage, and warm hospitality. By capitalizing on its unique attractions, investing in infrastructure and tourism initiatives, and fostering collaboration between government, private sector stakeholders, and local communities, Kurdistan Region can position itself as a leading tourism destination in the Middle East. With its blend of history, culture, and natural wonders, Kurdistan offers travelers an authentic and unforgettable experience that leaves a lasting impression.

The Middle East, often known for its rich history, cultural heritage, and breathtaking landscapes, is emerging as a vibrant and diverse tourism destination. From ancient historical sites to modern urban centers, from pristine beaches to majestic deserts, the Middle East offers a kaleidoscope of experiences for travelers seeking adventure, culture, and relaxation. The burgeoning tourism

industry in the Middle East, highlighting its attractions, challenges, and potential for growth. The Middle East is home to some of the world's most iconic historical and cultural sites, spanning millennia of civilization. From the pyramids of Egypt and the ancient ruins of Petra in Jordan to the historic cities of Jerusalem and Istanbul, the region is a treasure trove of archaeological wonders and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. These sites offer visitors a glimpse into the region's rich heritage and contribute to its allure as a cultural tourism destination. Beyond its historical sites, the Middle East boasts diverse natural landscapes that appeal to outdoor enthusiasts and adventure seekers. From the lush greenery of Lebanon's cedar forests to the rugged mountains of Oman and the pristine beaches of the UAE's coastline, the region offers opportunities for hiking, diving, camping, and other outdoor activities. The vast deserts of Saudi Arabia and the UAE provide a unique backdrop for desert safaris, camel treks, and stargazing experiences. The Middle East is home to dynamic and cosmopolitan cities that blend tradition with modernity, offering visitors a glimpse into the region's contemporary culture and lifestyle. Cities like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha, and Riyadh boast world-class infrastructure, luxury ho-

tels, shopping malls, and entertainment venues. These cities serve as hubs for business, leisure, and cultural exchange, attracting millions of visitors from around the world each year. The Middle East hosts a variety of cultural festivals, events, and celebrations throughout the year, showcasing its diverse traditions, arts, and cuisine. From the Dubai Shopping Festival and Qatar National Day celebrations to music festivals in Jordan and film festivals in Egypt, these events offer visitors an opportunity to immerse themselves in the region's vibrant cultural scene and hospitality. While the Middle East holds immense tourism potential, the industry faces several challenges, including political instability, security concerns, visa restrictions, and perceptions of safety. Additionally, environmental sustainability, infrastructure development, and cultural preservation are essential considerations for ensuring the long-term viability of tourism in the region. However, these challenges are accompanied by opportunities for collaboration, investment, and innovation to promote sustainable tourism practices and enhance the visitor experience.

The Middle East's tourism industry is poised for growth, driven by its rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and modern amenities. By capitalizing on its unique attractions, fostering collaboration between governments, private sector stakeholders, and local communities, and promoting sustainable tourism practices, the Middle East can position itself as a leading tourism destination on the global stage. With its blend of history, culture, and natural wonders, the Middle East offers travelers a truly unforgettable experience and a journey of discovery unlike any other.



The Significance of Oil Exports for the Kurdistan Region



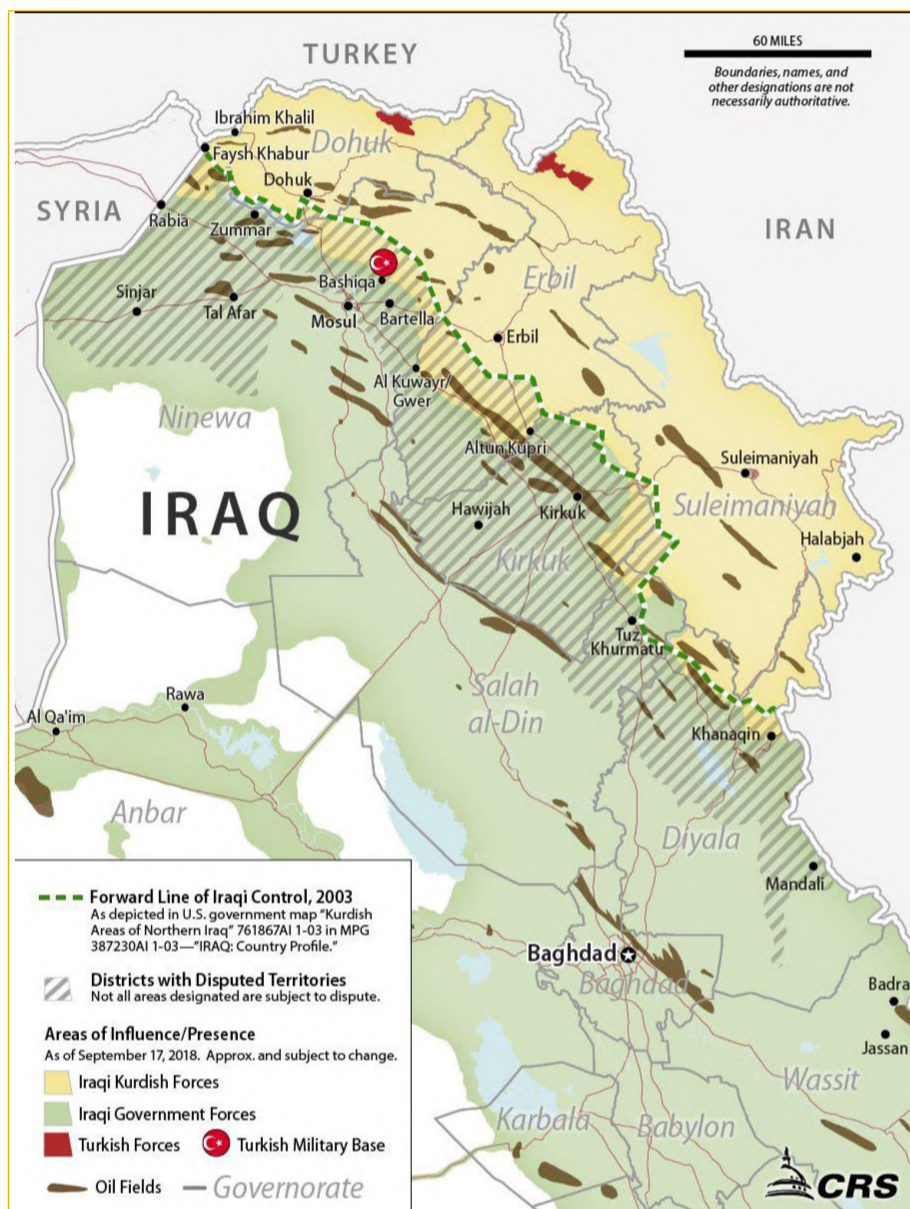
Abundant Oil Reserves, Energy Independence and Security, Economic Diversification and Development, Foreign Investment and Partnership Opportunities Regional Dynamics and Geopolitical Considerations

By **James Harris**

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq is endowed with significant oil reserves, making it a key player in the global energy landscape. Oil exports have emerged as a crucial driver of economic growth and development for the region, providing revenue streams to support infrastructure projects, social programs, and investment initiatives. The importance of oil exports for the Kurdistan Region and the implications of its energy sector on regional dynamics and global markets.

The Kurdistan Region boasts substantial oil reserves estimated at billions of barrels, primarily located in fields such as Taq Taq, Tawke, and Khurmala. These reserves represent a valuable asset for the region, offering significant potential for revenue generation and economic prosperity. Oil exports play a pivotal role in driving economic diversification and development in the Kurdistan Region. Revenues derived from oil sales have been channeled into various sectors, including infrastructure, healthcare, education, and tourism, fostering growth and improving living standards for residents.

The Kurdistan Region's oil sector has attracted significant foreign investment and partnership opportunities from international oil companies (IOCs) eager to capitalize on the region's vast reserves. Joint ventures and production-sharing agreements have been established to explore, develop, and extract oil resources, bringing in expertise, technology, and capital to support the industry. Oil exports contribute to the Kurdistan Region's energy



independence and security, reducing reliance on imports and diversifying energy sources. By harnessing its own oil resources, the region can enhance its energy self-sufficiency and resilience against external shocks and disruptions in global oil markets. The Kurdistan Region's oil exports have implications for regional dynamics and geopolitical considerations, particularly in relation to Iraq's central government in Baghdad. Disputes over oil revenue-sharing, production quotas, and export routes have at times strained relations between Erbil and Baghdad, highlighting the complexities of manag-

ing Iraq's oil wealth. Kurdistan Region's oil exports contribute to global energy markets, supplying crude oil to international buyers and helping to stabilize global oil prices. The region's strategic location, coupled with its expanding production capacity, positions it as an important player in the global energy landscape, influencing market dynamics and supply chains. Oil exports play a vital role in driving economic growth, development, and energy security in the Kurdistan Region. By harnessing its abundant oil reserves, the region has diversified its economy, attracted foreign investment, and

enhanced its geopolitical significance. As the Kurdistan Region continues to develop its oil sector, it must navigate challenges, seize opportunities, and prioritize sustainable and inclusive growth to ensure the long-term prosperity of its people and the region as a whole. Iraq, with its abundant oil and gas reserves, holds a prominent position in the global energy landscape. The country's energy policy plays a crucial role in driving economic growth, promoting development, and ensuring energy security for its population. The key components of Iraq's energy policy, exploring its objectives,

challenges, and future directions.

Iraq is endowed with vast reserves of oil and natural gas, making it one of the world's leading energy producers. The country's oil reserves, estimated at over 140 billion barrels, constitute a significant portion of global oil reserves, while its natural gas reserves are among the largest in the Middle East. Iraq's energy policy is guided by several overarching objectives, including maximizing revenue generation from oil and gas exports, meeting domestic energy demand, promoting economic diversification, attracting foreign investment, and enhancing energy efficiency and sustainability.

The development of Iraq's oil sector is central to its energy policy, with a focus on increasing production capacity, upgrading infrastructure, and expanding export capabilities. The country aims to attract foreign investment and expertise to modernize its oil fields and improve extraction techniques. Iraq is also prioritizing the development and utilization of its natural gas resources to meet growing domestic demand for electricity generation and industrial use. Efforts are underway to invest in gas infrastructure, develop gas fields, and establish gas processing facilities to monetize gas reserves and reduce flaring.

Infrastructure development is a key component of Iraq's energy policy, with investments directed towards expanding and modernizing oil and gas pipelines, refineries, storage facilities, and export terminals. Improved infrastructure is essential for optimizing production, enhancing export capacity, and en-

sureing reliable energy supply.

Iraq recognizes the importance of diversifying its energy mix to reduce dependence on oil exports and mitigate the impact of price volatility in global oil markets. The country is exploring opportunities to develop renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, to complement its fossil fuel-based energy infrastructure.

Iraq's energy policy faces several challenges, including political instability, security concerns, regulatory obstacles, and environmental considerations. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts to strengthen governance, improve security, enhance transparency, and promote sustainable development practices. Looking ahead, Iraq's energy policy will continue to evolve in response to changing global energy dynamics, technological advancements, and shifting geopolitical realities. By pursuing a balanced and holistic approach to energy development, Iraq aims to harness its abundant resources to drive economic prosperity and improve the well-being of its people.

Iraq's energy policy plays a pivotal role in shaping the country's economic development, energy security, and environmental sustainability. With its vast reserves of oil and gas, Iraq has the potential to become a major player in the global energy market. By implementing sound policies, investing in infrastructure, and fostering a conducive investment climate, Iraq can unlock the full potential of its energy resources to benefit its economy and society for generations to come.

Weather and Climate Change in Iraq, Understanding the Trends and Implications

Land Degradation and Desertification, Weather Patterns, Drought and Water Scarcity, and Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies , Water Scarcity and Irrigation

By *Dr. Mathew Jose*

Iraq, situated in the heart of the Middle East, experiences a diverse range of weather patterns and climatic conditions influenced by its geographical location, topography, and proximity to major bodies of water. In recent years, the country has also been grappling with the impacts of climate change, which pose significant challenges to its environment, economy, and society. The weather and climate change trends in Iraq, examining their effects and implications for the nation. Iraq's weather patterns are characterized by hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters, typical of a semi-arid climate. Temperatures can soar above 45°C (113°F) during the summer months, particularly in southern regions, while winters are relatively cooler with occasional rainfall, especially in the northern mountainous areas.

Iraq faces recurrent droughts and water scarcity, exacerbated by irregular rainfall patterns and declining water levels in rivers and reservoirs. This poses significant challenges to agriculture, water supply, and food security, impacting livelihoods and exacerbating social and economic inequalities, particularly in rural areas. Iraq is susceptible to extreme weather events, including heatwaves, dust storms, and flash floods, which are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change. These events pose risks to public health, infrastructure, and agriculture, and can lead to displacement, loss of life, and damage to property.

Agriculture, a vital sector of Iraq's economy, is particularly vulnerable to the effects of weather variability and climate change. Erratic rainfall, rising temperatures, and water scarcity threaten crop yields, livestock



productivity, and food security, undermining the livelihoods of farmers and exacerbating rural poverty. Climate change exacerbates environmental degradation in Iraq, leading to soil erosion, desertification, and loss of biodiversity. Deforestation, overgrazing, and unsustainable land use practices further compound these challenges, undermining ecosystem resilience and exacerbating environmental vulnerabilities. Iraq is taking steps to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, including enhancing water management practices, promoting sustainable agriculture, and investing in renewable energy sources. International cooperation and support are crucial in building climate resilience and implementing adaptation measures. Iraq has ratified international agreements and conventions on climate change, including the Paris Agreement, demonstrating its commitment to addressing the global climate

crisis. The government is working to develop and implement national climate change policies and strategies to mainstream climate considerations into development planning and decision-making processes.

Weather and climate change pose significant challenges to Iraq's environment, economy, and society, impacting sectors such as agriculture, water resources, and public health. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts at the national and international levels to build climate resilience, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote sustainable development practices. By adopting proactive measures and investing in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, Iraq can mitigate the adverse effects of weather variability and climate change and build a more resilient and sustainable future for its people.

Agriculture has long been a cornerstone of Iraq's economy and so-

ciety, providing livelihoods for millions of people and contributing to food security and rural development. Despite facing challenges such as water scarcity, land degradation, and political instability, Iraq's agricultural sector remains resilient and vital to the nation's well-being. The importance of agriculture in Iraq, its challenges, and the strategies employed to enhance productivity and sustainability.

Agriculture has been a fundamental part of Iraq's history and culture for millennia, with ancient Mesopotamia often referred to as the "Cradle of Civilization" due to its pioneering agricultural practices. The fertile lands between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers supported the growth of crops such as wheat, barley, and dates, laying the foundation for urbanization and cultural advancement.

Iraq's agricultural sector is diverse, producing a wide range of crops, including cereals, fruits, vegetables, and live-

stock. Wheat and barley are among the staple crops, while dates, citrus fruits, and olives are also significant contributors to agricultural output. Livestock farming, including sheep, goats, and cattle, is an important component of rural livelihoods. Iraq's agriculture faces several challenges, including water scarcity, land degradation, outdated irrigation systems, and limited access to modern farming technologies and practices. Political instability, conflict, and insecurity have further exacerbated these challenges, disrupting agricultural production and displacing rural communities.

Water scarcity is a major constraint on agricultural productivity in Iraq, exacerbated by declining water levels in rivers and reservoirs, inefficient irrigation practices, and competing demands from urbanization and industry. The construction of dams upstream has reduced water flow downstream, impacting agricultural lands

in southern Iraq. Land degradation and desertification pose significant threats to Iraq's agricultural lands, leading to soil erosion, salinization, and loss of arable land. Overgrazing, deforestation, and unsustainable land use practices contribute to these challenges, undermining the long-term sustainability of agriculture in the region.

The Iraqi government has implemented various initiatives to support the agricultural sector, including providing subsidies, credit facilities, and technical assistance to farmers. Efforts are underway to rehabilitate irrigation infrastructure, promote sustainable farming practices, and modernize agricultural extension services. Despite the challenges, Iraq's agricultural sector holds potential for improvement and growth. Investments in water management, soil conservation, and modernization of farming practices can enhance productivity, resilience, and sustainability. Promoting agricultural research and innovation and strengthening market linkages can also unlock opportunities for rural development and poverty reduction.

Agriculture remains a vital sector of Iraq's economy, providing livelihoods for millions of people and contributing to food security and rural development. By addressing the challenges of water scarcity, land degradation, and political instability, Iraq can unlock the full potential of its agricultural sector and ensure a sustainable future for its people. Through strategic investments, policy reforms, and community engagement, Iraq can cultivate resilience and prosperity in its agricultural sector for generations to come.

World Theater Day

History
 Considered the father of the arts, theater dates back more than 2,000 years ago, its new style dates back to the Greeks, the stages where wrestling and theatrical performances used to be done. Every year, theater artists around the world celebrate theater day on March 27. On this day, several theatrical activities are held. The history of this anniversary goes back to 1946 when three world theater workers (Archival McLeish, John Bristley Steele, Franco Moriak) were appointed as the first preparatory team for the World Theater Center by UNESCO.

In 1947, theater experts and theater artists (Jean-Louis Barrow, Arman Salacro, François Moriak) met to discuss the board of the world theater center.

On June 28, 1948, at a theater conference held in the city of Prag, the world theater Board, led by John Berstilli, referred to several points such as: Theater art is a global activity through theatre, one expresses oneself wherever one is.

Theater has a great impact on bringing nations

together for peace. At the same time, the objectives of the World Theater Center were announced, which included: expanding theatrical relations among theater artists, exchanging ideas among the members of this center. Strengthening relations between nations Publishing a magazine called (world theatre).

In 1961, a meeting of theater artists in Vienna decided to celebrate March 27 as World Theater Day, because on this day a theater festival was held in Paris called Sarah Bernard (1844-1923). In a tribute to the French actress Sara Bernart, this day was called World Theater Day, which was attended by theater artists (Lans Olive, Rina Mahi, Helenna Faikel, Peter Brook, and John Cockto) participated in the ceremony.

In 1962, when the world Theater Center (ITI) was officially established to organize the work of theater artists, most countries are members of this center, including Iraq, although Kurdish theater artists tried hard to make the king Kurdish servants should be accepted as members, but one of the

conditions for membership is this That you must have an independent state.

It is worth mentioning that the theater message is published annually by a theater artist. The first theater message was published in 1962 by the French artist Jean Cocteau He will be assigned to write a theater message for March 27 and the message will be received by the theater center it will be published in several languages.

The Message of Theater was first published in 1995 by an Arab theater artist named Sa'dullah Wunus. It is worth mentioning that in Kurdistan, theater artists in Erbil, Sulaimani and Duhok will celebrate this anniversary with several theatrical activities, several theatrical performances will be presented, at the same time and several theater artists will be awarded.

Every year, the Board of Directors of the International Theater Institute (ITI) selects a prominent theater figure to write the World Theater Day message for "Art is peace. Everyone is unique and looks like everyone else," he said "Each of us looks



different from everyone else. Of course, that's all very well, but there is something inside each of us that belongs only to that person. We might call that the person's mind. Or in other words, we can decide not to call it anything in words, leave it to itself."

This year, World Theater Day was celebrated in Erbil and Sulaimani, on Wednesday night 2024.3.27, in the presence of a significant number of officials, artists, intellectuals and theater workers,

in the media hall of Erbil, Erbil branch of the Artists Union In coordination with the Directorate of Theater Arts and with the support of Erbil Province, World Theater Day was celebrated in a ceremony and the play (This Happened to Me) written by Olivia Shiashari and directed by Hiwa Suad Younis was performed.

Then the governor of Erbil and the audience presented certificates of appreciation and flowers to prominent artists of Erbil "Khalil Yaba and

Yusef Osman" in return for their efforts and history of artistic work. On this occasion, in the Cultural Hall in Sulaimani, in the ceremony (World Theater Day), which was organized by the Department of Theater Arts of the General Directorate of Culture and Arts of Sulaimani, each of the artists, ((Rizgar Amin, Salar Mahir, Sawsan Omar)) They were awarded and the play (Nudity) was performed.

By: Sara Sultan

The Great Project of "Mukriyan Oral Dictionary" Has Been Completed

Mukriani Publishing House, under a contract with the talented writer (Salah Payaniani), undertook the project of publishing the Mukriyan Oral Dictionary, which consists of (15) main volumes and (4) four appendix volumes, which totals more than ten thousand pages He was able to complete the publication within four and a half years.

Thus, with the courage of the author and the Mukriani Foundation, the largest dictionary of the language was made a rich guest of the Kurdish library.

For this purpose, Thursday 2024/3/1 The publication ceremony of the last volume of Mukriyan Oral Dictionary, written and prepared by Salah Payaniani and published by Mukriani Publishing

House, was held in Mahabad.

The ceremony was attended by a number of Kurdish writers, poets, academics and researchers. Finally, in the presence of some guests, the unveiling of the volumes of "Mukriyan Oral Dictionary" was held.

By: Sara Sultan



The Book 'General Barzani in Memories' Was Published in Sulaimani



The book "General Barzani in Memories," which describes the attitude and several stages of Mullah Mustafa Barzani's life, has been published in Sulaimani. The book was written by journalist Kawa Amin.

In this book, it is not only Kurds who talk

about Mullah Mustafa and it is not about a specific history, but it is the views of many different personalities, both foreign and Kurdish, who lived with him for a while or visited him or interviewed him."

The book "General Barzani in Memories"

published by Kurdistan Dialogue Organization was released on 13-03-2024 in a ceremony at Salim Cinema. by each of Dr. Dilêr Shaweis and Dr. Majid Khalil will present a discussion about the book.

By: Sara Sultan

Iraqi Footballers Seek Financial Rewards for Victories

Players Await Recognition Amidst Financial Strain: Iraqi Footballers Seek Just Compensation for Asian Cup Triumphs

As Iraqi football continues to bask in the glory of its triumphs in the 2023 Asian Cup, the spotlight now shifts to the players who seek due acknowledgment and rewards for their stellar performances. Amidst the jubilation of victories against formidable opponents such as Japan, Vietnam, and the Philippines, Iraqi players have penned a letter to the country's football federation, articulating their earnest plea for financial compensation.

Sources within the Iraqi football fraternity disclose that the players are rallying behind their cause, demanding fair remuneration for their noteworthy achievements. Specifically, they emphasize their victories over Japan and Vietnam in the 2023 Asian



Cup, which propelled Iraq to the Round of 16 in the tournament. Additionally, the players seek assurances of rewards for their commendable display during the World Cup qualifiers against the Phil-

ippines.

Each player's entitlement to an approximate sum of \$19,000 in prize money serves as a testament to their dedication and hard work on the field. However, the anticipated rewards have yet to materialize, owing to the financial constraints faced by the Football Federation.

Iraq's remarkable journey in the 2023 Asian Cup, marked by victories against formidable opponents and securing qualification for future tournaments, underscores the nation's burgeoning prowess in international football. Yet, amidst the celebrations, the players' plea for recognition highlights the challenges they face amidst the financial strains plaguing the football landscape.

Kurdish Teams Take the Lead in Iraqi Volleyball

As the Iraqi Volleyball Premier League Enters Its Decisive Phase, Kurdish Teams Set the Pace

The excitement in the Iraqi Volleyball Premier League has reached a fever pitch as the second round commenced amidst fervent anticipation in Erbil. With fans eagerly awaiting the outcome, the competition has become a focal point of sporting enthusiasm across the nation.

Among the teams battling for the coveted title, the spotlight falls on Peshmarga Sulaimani and Erbil, both determined to etch their names in football history. As the league enters its decisive phase, the stage is set for a thrilling display of skill and determination.

This season has witnessed the rise of five formidable teams, each harboring aspirations of championship glory. Alongside perennial contenders Peshmarga Sulaimani and Erbil, the likes of Ghazi Bashur, Bahri, and Masafi Shimal have emerged as formidable challengers, adding to the intensity of the competition.

Leading the charge is Peshmarga Sulaimani, buoyed by their impres-



sive performance in the previous season where they clinched the runner-up position. With seven points to their name, they currently top the league standings, closely pursued by Erbil with six points.

Erbil's coach, Kakajwan Ramazan, exudes confidence in his team's abilities, emphasizing the significance of their Kurdish lineup. "This year, we are poised to contend for the title with a squad

that embodies the spirit of our nation. Playing in front of our devoted supporters provides us with a significant advantage, and we aim to capitalize on this opportunity to secure victories and accumulate crucial points," remarked Ramazan in an exclusive interview with Rudaw.

Reflecting on the league's history, attention turns to Ghazi Junoub, the reigning champions from Basra. With an illustrious record boasting six league

titles, they stand as a testament to the enduring legacy of Iraqi football, serving as inspiration for aspiring teams across the country.

As the Iraqi Premier League unfolds in Erbil, the stage is set for an exhilarating journey towards crowning the next champion, with every match poised to deliver moments of triumph, heartbreak, and undying passion on the field.

Kurdish Player Leaves Syrian National Team Camp

Kurdish midfielder Mahmoud Daoud has exited Syria's national team training camp, a surprising turn of events following his recent decision to represent Syria. Initially invited by Argentina coach Hector Cooper for the 2026 World Cup and 2027 Asian Cup qualifiers, Daoud has now withdrawn from the Syrian camp.

According to the Syrian Football Federation's official website, Daoud's departure stems from his purportedly unusual and

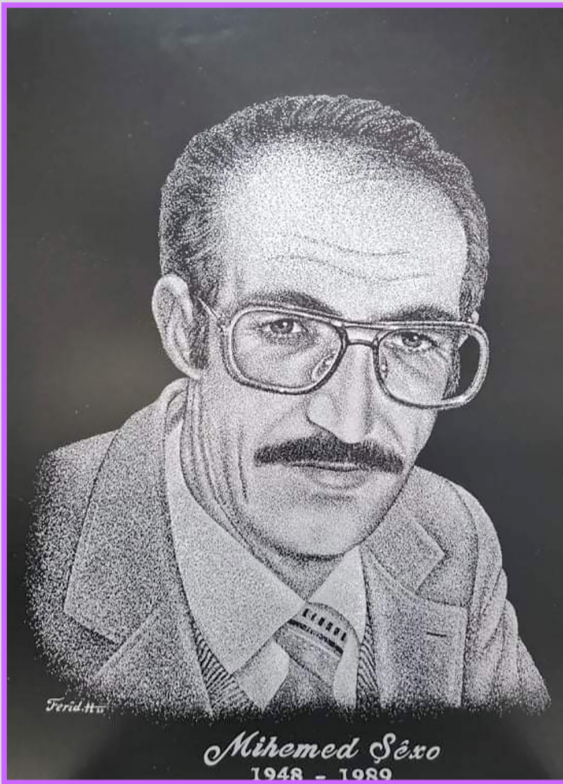
challenging conditions for playing with the national team. Sources suggest Daoud demanded a personal bodyguard, a close relative, to accompany him at all times during games and training, along with a change in the Syrian national team's coaching staff.

Daoud, known for his tenure at Borussia Dortmund and Brighton, returned to Germany on loan with Stuttgart last summer, solidifying his footballing career.





Folklore Spotlight



Mihemed Şêxo
1948 - 1989

Remembering Mihemed Şêxo

Mihemed Şêxmûs Salih, known affectionately as Mihemed Şêxo, remains an iconic figure in Kurdish folk music, leaving an indelible mark with his poignant, traditional, and often politically charged lyrics. Born in 1948 in Qamishlo, Syria, Şêxo's humble beginnings and unwavering passion for music shaped his remarkable journey.

Despite facing financial hardships in his youth, Şêxo's talent blossomed early on. Moving to Lebanon in 1969 to pursue his musical aspirations, he quickly garnered attention for his patriotic compositions in Kurdish. However, political tensions forced him to return home, where his defiance against oppression through his music attracted both admiration and scrutiny from authorities.

Şêxo's unwavering dedication to Kurdish culture and history led him to explore new musical horizons, blending traditional Kurdish melodies with influences from Arabic music. His refusal to be silenced by political persecution resulted in imprisonment in Iran, yet he persisted in using his art as a vehicle for resistance.

Returning to Syria in 1983, Şêxo's influence as a prominent Kurdish singer continued to grow, with his music resonating deeply across Kurdistan. His untimely death in 1989 sparked widespread mourning, underscoring the profound impact of his musical legacy.

Today, Şêxo's music remains a cornerstone of Kurdish cultural heritage, inspiring countless artists who continue to draw from his style. Songs such as "Ay Le Gule" and "Nesrîn" continue to echo through Kurdish music channels, serving as poignant reminders of Şêxo's enduring influence on Kurdish music and identity.

"Adiabin": A Cultural Delight for Kurdish Audiences

Journey Through History as Kurdistan TV Presents

a Gripping Historical Drama

As the holy month of Ramadan graces our screens, Kurdistan TV unveils a captivating narrative in "Adiabin," a thrilling 30-episode drama that promises to enchant viewers across Kurdistan. Crafted by the talented Karim Abdullah and guided by the visionary direction of Hassan Ali Khan, this epic tale transports Kurdish audiences to the heart of Erbil's history, igniting their imaginations with tales of bygone eras.

Set amidst the backdrop of the Ottoman and British incursions and subsequent division of Erbil and Kurdistan, "Adiabin" serves as a mesmerizing tribute to Kurdish heritage and resilience. Through its intricate storytelling, the series offers Kurdish spectators a window into the struggles and triumphs of their ancestors, weaving together themes of familial bonds, political upheaval, and unwavering determination.

At the core of "Adiabin" lies a cast of talented performers who bring the characters to life with authenticity and passion. From the captivating portrayal of Bahjat Pasha by esteemed TV actor Zahir Abdullah to



the endearing performances of Talar Hirani as Aisha and Handren Abdulrahman as Jawamer, Kurdish audiences are treated to a spectacle of emotion and intrigue.

With Maulana Hamad Amin embodying the role

of Aziz Tutanchi and a host of other gifted artists contributing their talents, "Adiabin" becomes more than just a television series—it becomes a shared experience that resonates deeply with Kurdish spectators.

Adding to the excitement are the international contributions of British actor Phil Webster and Luxembourgian singer-actress Sophia Carl, whose presence lends a global perspective to the production, enriching the viewing experience for Kurdish audiences.

"Adiabin" ensures that Kurdish viewers are thoroughly entertained, with its episodes airing at multiple times throughout the day to accommodate their schedules. Furthermore, the inclusion of Arabic subtitles on Zagros Arabic TV ensures that the series reaches a broader audience beyond Kurdistan's borders, spreading the richness of Kurdish culture far and wide.

As Kurdish audiences immerse themselves in the world of "Adiabin," they find themselves captivated by its storytelling prowess and moved by its celebration of Kurdish identity. With each episode, the series reaffirms the enduring spirit of the Kurdish people, leaving spectators inspired and uplifted in their appreciation of their rich heritage.

Maher Zain Sings in Kurdish

Maher Zain's Melodic Message: A Tribute to Kurdish Culture and Faith



Renowned Lebanese-Swedish artist Maher Zain has unveiled a captivating new release that transcends linguistic and cultural boundaries. In a remarkable display of inclusivity and reverence, Zain has ventured into the realm of Kurdish music, delivering a soul-stirring religious hymn titled "Ay Ghafoor u Rahim."

This poignant composi-

tion, released amidst the holy month of Ramadan, serves as a heartfelt ode to spirituality and devotion, resonating deeply with audiences across diverse communities. Shot against the picturesque backdrop of Amed, a big and ancient Kurdish city in Türkiye, the accompanying music video offers a mesmerizing glimpse into the historical richness and architectural

splendor of the region.

In a statement delivered in Kurdish, Zain expressed his profound gratitude for the opportunity to share his message of faith through the medium of music, transcending linguistic barriers to touch the hearts of listeners worldwide. With a repertoire spanning eight languages, Zain's dedication to spreading messages of unity and equality

reflects his unwavering commitment to his Muslim faith and the universal values it espouses.

As the strains of "Ay Ghafoor u Rahim" reverberate through the ancient streets of Amed, Maher Zain's musical tribute stands as a testament to the enduring power of art to foster harmony and understanding in an ever-diverse world.