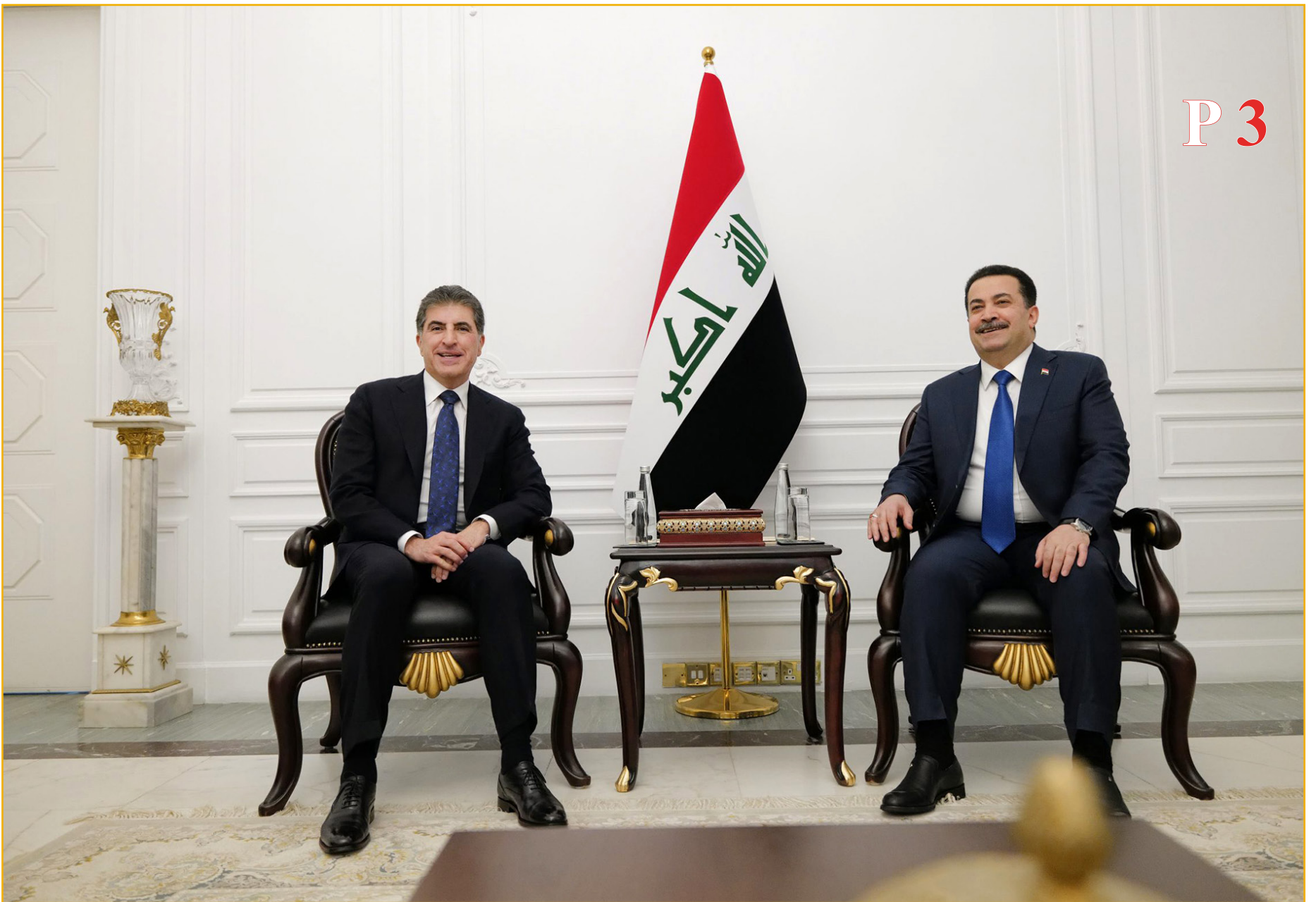


From the Heart of Kurdistan Region

THE KURDISH GLOBE

No: 585 Monday, April 29, 2024

Kurdistan Region President Emphasizes Cooperation in Meetings With Iraqi Leaders



National P 2

Erbil's Literary Spectacle: The 16th International Book Fair



National P 5

Kurdish leaders Welcome President Erdogan, Seek Stronger Economic Ties and Regional Stability



National P 4

TEDxNishtiman Shatters records, Embraces Change in Landmark Event



National P 7

PM Masrour Barzani Vows to Uphold Press Freedom, Highlighting Progress in Kurdistan Journalism



Editorial

After 126 years of journalistic struggle, what should the media do for us?



By | *Dr. Nazaket Hussien*

Since the past 126 years, a people and the owner of a national cause, busy with a revolutionary struggle and trying to gain independence and the very existence of a state. Away from the homeland and in the exile, at the hands of the thinker and intellectual 'Miqdad Medhat Badrkhan' on 22 April 1898 in Egypt, the first Kurdish newspaper was published under the name of (Kurdiŝtan). Although the total number of these newspapers was issued intermittently abroad and in the exile. But it has become an initiative for the cultural struggle of a people who wanted to convey with pen and thought the voice of their nationalism and cause in the world. This cultural struggle continues with Kurdish revolutionary struggle. After South of Kurdiŝtan obtained freedom and great public uprising in the spring of 1991, and establishment of the first government council of the Kurdiŝtan Region. The constant concern of the Kurdiŝtan Regional Government was the preservation and continuation of this media struggle. Therefore,

in 2007, the Kurdiŝtan Region issued the Press Law as a modern law to legalize journalistic work and consider it as a specialized work in the Kurdiŝtan Region. This Law specified the procedures and how to deal with the journalist, his duties and rights. At the same time, in 2004, Law No. 40 was issued to establish the Kurdiŝtan Journalist Syndicate in order to make a greater effort to recognize and maintain journalistic work as a profession and competence. In addition to a number of laws and other directives related to this field and expanding the ground of freedom of expression. What this region and its government wants and asks for now from the media, is to preserve coexistence and maintain peace and serve the national cause of the Kurdish people. They also ask journalists to carry out their professional duties, communicate the facts, inform people, and avoid use of rough tongues, chaos, and the use of the media for purposes that do not serve our just cause

Erbil's Literary Spectacle: The 16th International Book Fair



President Barzani Inaugurates Ten-Day Cultural Extravaganza Featuring 300 Publishers from Twenty-Two Countries

Erbil witnessed a momentous occasion as President Barzani inaugurated the 16th International Book Fair at Sami Abdulrahman Park on Wednesday, April 17, 2024. Running for ten days until April 27, this year's fair boasts participation from 300 local, international, and Iraqi publishing entities, along with broadcasting hubs from twenty-two nations.

Spanning diverse fields such as culture, religion, philosophy, social arts, science, poetry, literature, and history, the exhibition promises a plethora of enriching content for visitors.

With a remarkable 50% discount on books offered by participating vendors, this year's fair has already broken attendance records. Held annually, the International Book Fair holds significant sway in the realms of politics, society, culture, and intellect.

Renowned Kurdish writer and

intellectual, Hamid Gawhari, emphasized the pivotal nature of the fair's launch in Erbil, telling the Kurdish Globe newspaper, "The International Book Fair's opening in Erbil under President Barzani's auspices carries profound significance." Gawhari stressed the importance of providing Erbil's readers access to a diverse array of titles in a conducive environment, noting President Barzani's personal commitment to the literary cause.

Gawhari emphasized the broader cultural implications of such events, underscoring their role in fostering a culture of reading, countering misinformation, and facilitating meaningful interactions among Kurdish writers and their international counterparts.

Echoing similar sentiments, Kurdish writer and intellectual Mahdi Zryan hailed the fair's international stature, stressing its importance in fostering cul-

tural exchange and intellectual discourse. Zryan emphasized the need to expand and enrich such initiatives, recognizing their role as bridges between readers, writers, and communities.

Moreover, Zryan highlighted the evolving nature of the fair, noting a shift towards inclusivity by featuring works in languages beyond Kurdish and observing an increased interest in religious texts alongside a broader philosophical underpinning aimed at promoting a culture of reading in the face of technological advancements.

Ultimately, the International Book Fair in Erbil emerges not just as a celebration of literature but as a beacon of cultural enrichment, fostering dialogue, understanding, and appreciation for the written word in a rapidly evolving world.

By *Sara Sultan*



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Kurdistan Region President emphasizes cooperation in meetings with Iraqi leaders

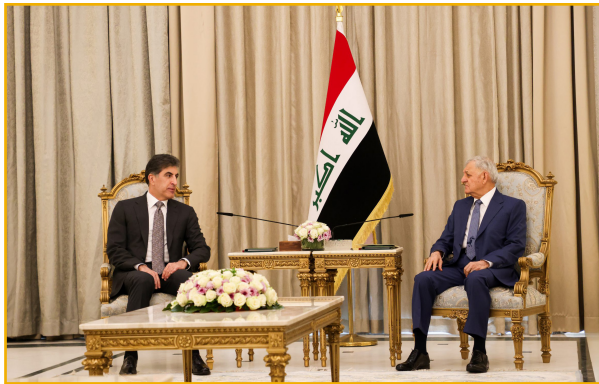
Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani embarked on a visit to Baghdad on Saturday, engaging in discussions with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani and the ruling State Administration Coalition. This visit serves as his second trip to the Iraqi capital within this month, subsequent to Prime Minister al-Sudani's recent journey to Washington.

The Kurdistan Region president also held separate meetings with Iraqi President Dr. Abdullahif Rashid, Chief Justice Fayege Zedan, who presides over the Iraqi Supreme Judicial Council, Qasim al-Araji, the National Security Advisor to the Iraqi Government and Mohammed Al-Halbousi, leader of the Taqadum Alliance party. Prior to these engagements, the President participated in the State Administration Coalition meeting, which encompasses all the political parties involved in the formation of the current Federal Government, led by Prime Minister al-Sudani.

The Kurdistan Region Presidency issued a statement underscoring the importance of maintaining a constructive dialogue between the Iraqi Federal Government and the Kurdistan Region, as both parties acknowledged mutual concerns. The statement also indicated that the two leaders engaged in discussions regarding recent political developments in the country, emphasizing the need to provide continuous support for the Federal Government's efforts at both domestic and international levels.

Prime Minister al-Sudani expressed his optimism regarding the Kurdistan Region President's visits as a step towards resolving shared issues, according to a statement from his office. Collaboration and coordination between the judiciary in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region were highlighted by both sides as significant, along with the importance of leveraging the opportunities and capabilities of the Iraqi judiciary for Kurdistan Region's judicial institutions. Additionally, they stressed the importance of maintaining the country's peace and political stability.

During his meeting at the Peace Palace with President Abdullahif Rashid,



KRP Nechirvan Barzani reaffirmed the Kurdistan Region's commitment to resolving all disputes and outstanding issues with Baghdad. President Rashid emphasized the crucial role of security and stability as prerequisites for the development of the economy, public services and improved livelihoods. He also underscored the significance of government support in implementing the ministerial program to fulfill the aspirations of the public.

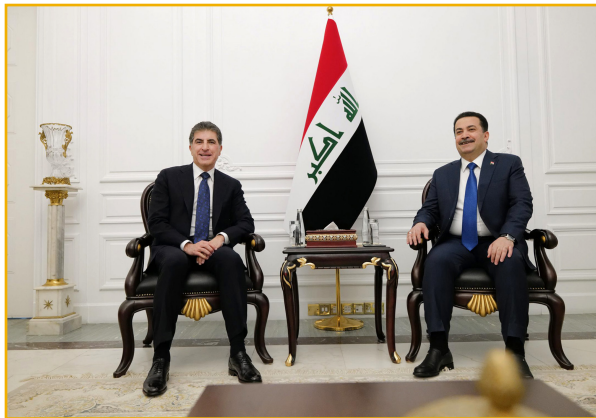
Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani also convened with the Iraqi National Security Advisor Qasim al-Araji in Baghdad on Sunday afternoon. The discussion centered around the security landscape in Iraq, the persistent threat of terrorism, and the various challenges confronting the country and the potential consequences of regional conflicts. Both parties emphasized the critical nature of collaboration and synchronization among the pertinent entities of the Iraqi Federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government in security matters, with the aim of addressing security risks. They concurred on the necessity for all stakeholders to work together to uphold peace and stability within the country.

ANALYSIS

Charting a new course for all of Iraq?

In Baghdad, KRP Nechirvan Barzani unveiled the roadmap he has persistently advocated for during the past couple of years. He conveyed to Iraqi leaders that a window of opportunity has emerged for Iraq to overcome the crisis it has endured for the past two decades. This opportunity is indeed manifested in the strategic dialogue and agreement between Iraq and the United States (SFA). KRP Nechirvan

said and all what he discussed in Washington," Ihsan says, adding that it is in the interest of Iraq and its government to work closely with the Kurdistan Region and its president to find a solution to such attacks by militias. And if Iraq fails to address that, Ihsan warns, the international community will "create a coalition to fight these militias inside Iraq."



Barzani has consistently emphasized that despite the passage of two decades, Iraq has not achieved the status of a prosperous nation, and the Kurds have not experienced a sense of security.

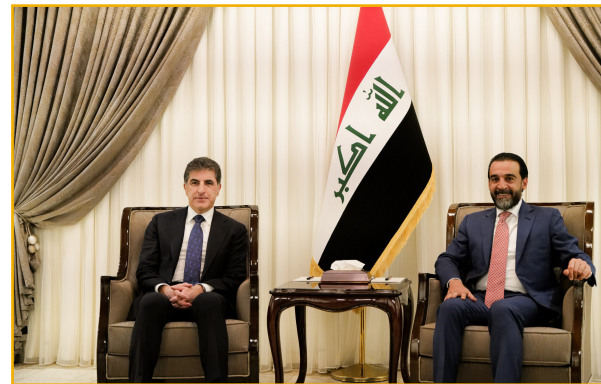
The Kurdistan Region President has asserted that Iraq now has the potential to rise and attain both domestic and foreign support. Nevertheless, he has underscored that this is contingent upon addressing internal issues, particularly those concerning the Kurdistan Region. The Kurdistan Region President has stressed the imperative of reaching a consensus on a shared vision for Iraq in order to accomplish this objective. Failure to do so, he has warned, would result in Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region, descending into another cycle of domestic, regional, and international turmoil.

"It's a very important trip and mission for the President of Kurdistan Region, because today the relationship between Baghdad and Erbil is getting to a critical position after the attack on Khor Mor gas field which is an attack on the energy sector of Kurdistan, private sector investment in Kurdistan, and on the security of energy of Iraq," says Mohammed Ihsan, a Yale University professor and a former Kurdish minister.

"After the visit by Iraq's Prime Minister to Washington, it is a very big punch on the face of all what he

to find solutions that benefit all parties involved," says Omar Nuraddini, a political scientist and former member of Kurdistan Regional Parliament. "Additionally, security threats to the energy sector in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq, exemplified by the terrorist attack on the Kormor field, highlight the need for dialogue and cooperation to prevent such incidents," he added.

Nuraddini says that during the formation of Prime Minister Sudani's cabinet, a political agreement was reached among participating parties in Iraq to establish a high political committee for oversight. However, the agreement has not fully addressed the highest interests of the Kurdistan Region. Therefore, the President of the Kurdistan Region is engaging in coalition discussions to ensure these interests are



The current series of negotiations between Erbil and Baghdad is poised for a higher chance of success compared to previous attempts. This is primarily due to the fact that the US-Iraq strategic dialogue/agreement hinges on the Kurdistan Region's compliance with Baghdad's directives regarding the dialogue. Failure of the strategic dialogue would result in the withdrawal of political, economic, and military support from the US and its key partners. Consequently, Iraq would face a state of crisis and be vulnerable to internal sectarian conflicts. The warning signs of such a scenario have been increasingly apparent in recent years. Should the strategic dialogue falter, Baghdad may witness a resurgence of sectarian clashes reminiscent of the violence seen in 2007, the harrowing images of which still linger in our collective memory.

"Discussions are taking place at regional, international, and domestic levels

adequately represented.

In fact, the failure of the SFA (US-Iraq agreement) does not align with the interests of Iraq's political establishment and sectarian factions, who have reaped substantial economic advantages for themselves and their followers (comprising tens of millions of voters) in the last twenty years, and who are reluctant to relinquish their material and social positions in case of potential conflicts in Iraq. Consequently, they are inclined to engage in negotiations not only with the Kurds but also among themselves and with the US. If the strategic dialogue proves successful (which remains highly probable), it could significantly benefit Iraq by facilitating access to international investment and capital. Hence, the crux of the matter lies in fostering dialogue and involving Kurdistan in the process.

"There is optimism surrounding these visits as they offer hope for resolving several major issues with Baghdad, including

the budget, salaries, oil, financial entitlements of the Peshmerga and pensioners, and various other concerns regarding governance," says Hasan Amin Shekhani, a university professor and a member of Kurdistan Islamic Movement leadership.

"It is evident that our problems extend beyond just salaries, encompassing a range of issues that necessitate the implementation of the constitution and the resolution of matters pertaining to the Kurdistan Region," Shekhani adds.

Therefore, it is in the best interest of both Baghdad and Erbil to prioritize each other's interests in both the short and long term. President of Kurdistan Region Nechirvan Barzani emphasizes the need for a mutual agreement on a "common vision" that aligns all forces and communities, particularly regarding the Kurdistan Region, based on the constitution, within the framework of federalism, and with positive intentions from both sides.

"The Kurdistan Region President persistently emphasizes the importance of dialogue to resolve outstanding issues and joint coordination on various priority issues, especially those related to the living and service requirements of the citizens," says Karokh Khoshnaw, Director of the US-Kurdish Research Institute. Khoshnaw says The Kurdistan Region President's visit pointed out the desire and determination of Kurdistan to resolve all issues in a manner that ensures justice, transparency, and strengthens security and stability in Kurdistan and Iraq.

The establishment of a shared perspective on the roadmap, as advocated by the President of the Kurdistan Region during his visit to Baghdad, has the potential to facilitate the recovery of both Iraq and Kurdistan from the present challenges and prevent further deterioration in the future, given that the roadmap enjoys backing from the global community. Internally, embracing the roadmap could potentially rectify the political landscape that has been plagued by persistent crises for over ten years.

By Jawad Qadir
Globe Staff Writer

TEDxNishtiman shatters records, embraces change in landmark event

In a groundbreaking display of interest and engagement, TEDxNishtiman's seventh edition, launched on April 25, 2024, garnered unprecedented attention, drawing over 6,000 eager participants. Despite venue limitations accommodating only 1,500 attendees, the overwhelming response underscores the event's growing influence as a catalyst for innovation and dialogue in the Kurdistan Region.

Rawand Hussein, TEDxNishtiman Organizer, told the Kurdish Globe in an interview that: "The core mission of TEDxNishtiman lies in bridging the gap between youthful minds and established entrepreneurs." He added: "By creating a space for the exchange of ideas and the exploration of novel approaches, the program aims to cultivate a more dynamic and forward-thinking atmosphere within the region. This commitment to intellectual exchange is reflected in the diverse audience that TEDxNishtiman attracts."

Hussein furthermore stated: "From diplomats representing international interests to representatives of prominent NGOs, the program fosters a rich tapestry of perspectives and experiences."

Adding to the excitement of this year's event was the debut of a groundbreaking initiative by Jobs. KRD platform. Hussein remarked: "For the first time ever, attendees were presented with real-time job opportunities directly at the TEDxNishtiman conference. This innovative move serves to further emphasize the program's

dedication to empowering young minds and facilitating their transition into the workforce."

Additionally, Hussein stated that the Volunteers. KRD played a crucial role throughout the event, offering a variety of volunteer and training opportunities, allowing participants to not only be inspired but also actively contribute to the program's success.

"Our core focus at TEDxNishtiman is twofold," explains the program's dedicated organizer. "Firstly, we strive to create a program featuring the most inspiring speakers and thought-provoking topics. Secondly, we are deeply committed to addressing the challenges faced by the Kurdistan Region and the broader region, utilizing the TEDxNishtiman platform as a springboard for generating innovative solutions."

The unwavering commitment to fostering positive change is further exemplified by the impressive team of over 100 young people who orchestrated the event. Their dedication is a testament to the program's ability to empower the next generation.

Hussein went on to say: "Notably, two key factors contribute to TEDxNishtiman's continued growth and impact. The first is the invaluable support provided by Masrour Barzani, the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government. The second lies in the unwavering dedication of the volunteers and young leaders who form the backbone of TEDxNishtiman."

The TEDxNishtiman platform announced that



the seventh TEDxNishtiman, set to be held at Saad Abdullah Hall, promised to be a landmark event. With 1,500 attendees eager to engage and learn, the stage is set for a dynamic exchange of ideas. Thirteen esteemed speakers, including inspiring young leaders, government officials, diplomats, and representatives from regional and international organi-

zations, will take the stage to share their insights and perspectives. The diverse schedule guaranteed a program brimming with intellectual stimulation and thought-provoking discussions.

TEDxNishtiman, an independent TED event held in the heart of Erbil, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, ignites a platform for transformative ideas. Licensed by

TED, this volunteer-driven program brings together a vibrant mix of local and international minds. Their diverse perspectives channeled through captivating talks on science, technology, entertainment, design, and more, spark inspiration and ignite change within the Kurdistan community.

The TEDxNishtiman presenters stated at the beginning of the event that:

"This year's theme, Shift, embodies the spirit of TEDxNishtiman. It's a call to action, urging participants to embrace change across a spectrum of topics – from revolutionizing education and personal growth to tackling pressing global challenges."

The Kurdish Globe

Development Road Project to include Kurdistan Region

Development Road Project is one of the projects that has been discussed between both Iraq and Turkey with the aim to connect the Arabian Gulf to Europe.

The project will go through 11 Iraqi governorates, including the Kurdistan Region which consists of land roads, railway and ports, stretching from Iraq and Turkey with the aim to transit of goods received at an Iraqi commodities Gulf port fa-

cility in Basra to European markets.

On April 23, at the presence of the Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Iraq, Turkey, UAE and Qatar signed a preliminary agreement to cooperation on the Development Road project.

Qatar's Minister of Transport Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti, and the UAE's Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Suhail Mo-

hamed Al Mazrouei, were present to sign the agreement.

The Iraqi PM in his speech during the Development Road conference held in Baghdad described the project as a pillar of the sustainable non-oil economy and a link that serves Iraq's neighbors and the whole region.

He added that this promising project will take Iraq to an economic partnership with neighboring countries and the region,

which will make the country a source of modern industries and goods, and in all of this it will rely on multimodal corridors, with more than 1,200 km of railways and highways.

According to the Iraqi government assessment the project would cost USD 17 billion and will be constructed in three phases, with the first phase to be completed in 2028, the second phase in 2033 and final phase is scheduled to be completed by

2050. When complete, the project will facilitate an overland route between Europe and Gulf Cooperation Countries.

The Iraqi Ministry of Transport in a statement following the signing of the agreement said that "the outlines for the framework of implementing the Development Road project aim to stimulate economic growth and enhance regional and international cooperation through economic integra-

tion."

According to the graphics published following the signing of the Development Road project, the highways and railroad will have to cross through Zakhko district in the Kurdistan Region and it is not clear whether other areas of the Kurdistan Region will be linked to the project. The Kurdistan Regional Government has not made any official statement regarding the project yet.

Erdogan in Kurdistan: Kurdish leaders welcome President Erdogan, seek stronger economic ties and regional stability

Erbil and Baghdad recently welcomed Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, sparking a flurry of diplomatic activity and media analysis. Kurdish leaders emphasized economic cooperation and regional stability during the visit, and analysts explored the complex web of diplomacy and potential challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Renewed dialogue and economic opportunities

The visit marked a significant step in normalizing relations between Turkey and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) following a period of tension that arose after the 2017 Kurdish independence referendum. Kurdish officials, including KDP President Masoud Barzani, Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) President Nechirvan Barzani, and Prime Minister Masrour Barzani, all expressed their desire for stronger economic ties and regional stability. The KDP President Masoud Barzani, in a statement on his official X account, highlighted the discussions on "continued paths of cooperation in pursuit of the interests of the people of Kurdistan and Turkey."

The KRI President Nechirvan Barzani reiterated the "Kurdistan Region's desire to further strengthen its ties with Turkey across all sectors, emphasizing that the Kurdistan Region should continue to be a source of stability and peace in the region," read the statement from his office. The Kurdistan Region's President said that Erdogan's visit comes at a "critical time" for the region.

The economic dimension of the visit was a key focus. Prime Minister Masrour Barzani underscored the "Readiness to advance joint economic and trade relations with Turkey," emphasizing opportunities for Turkish companies to invest in various sectors within the Kurdistan Region. This aligns with Erdogan's historical focus on economic growth and investment, as highlight-



ed by Kurdish political analyst Hassan Ahmed Mustafa. In an interview with The Kurdish Globe, Mustafa noted Erdogan's recent push to revitalize trade relationships and energy partnerships with Iraq and the KRG, particularly in light of upcoming elections in Turkey.

The visit yielded concrete results, with both sides signing over 24 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) encompassing cooperation in various fields such as economy, trade, water, and security. Notably, Erdogan emphasized the importance of opening new border crossings to facilitate trade between Turkey and the Kurdistan Region.

Regarding the signed agreements and MOUs, in an interview with The Kurdish Globe, Kurdish academic Dr. Zuber Rasul explained, "The agreements include the KR but Turkey's main focus is on the GIO [Government of Iraq]." He pointed out that Kurdish leaders were likely aware of details of the agreements beforehand due to pre-visit Turkish delegations and Iraq's Kurdish Foreign

Minister. However, Rasul cautioned, "It is not clear whether these are final contracts or maybe many of them will not even be implemented later."

"The visit to Baghdad and the KRI shows balance between the federal government and the KRG," emphasized Rasul. "Turkey knows very well that they cannot settle the issues with Iraq without the KRG's help."

An Iraqi political expert who talked to The Kurdish Globe stated that: "President Erdogan's recent visit to Baghdad and the Kurdistan Region carries significant geopolitical and strategic implications. His trip underscores the recognition of Erbil as a pivotal partner in regional geopolitics, central to both conflict and cooperation frameworks. This visit demonstrates the importance of Erbil as a stabilizing force and an integral component in any security arrangements between federal Iraq and Turkey."

Lingering security concerns and the PKK issue

Despite the positive economic outlook, security

concerns remain a significant hurdle in Iraqi-Turkish relations. Turkey has long expressed its anxieties regarding the presence of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which it designates as a terrorist organization, within Iraqi territory. This concern was a major talking point during Erdogan's meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani. Rasul expressed concerns about a potential Turkish military incursion similar to actions taken in Rojava (Syrian Kurdish region). "There are voices suggesting Turkey's potential incursion into the KR border, akin to their actions in Rojava," Rasul noted. He suggested that President Erdogan might be seeking to boost his domestic popularity after facing setbacks in recent elections.

However, Kurdish political analyst Mustafa offered a different perspective, moderating fears of a large-scale military operation inside the KRI. Mustafa pointed out that discussions between Iraqi and Turkish leaders on the PKK issue likely focused on strategic po-

sitioning. "Iraqi border guards, including Kurdish Peshmerga forces, will be strategically positioned in Kurdistan including Sulaimani province," Mustafa clarified. He suggested that military conflicts might only arise if PKK forces engaged Iraqi border guards, particularly in areas with a PKK presence like Sinjar.

Mustafa further explained the complexities surrounding the PKK issue. While Turkey seeks Iraq's full designation of the PKK as a terrorist group, immediate action is hindered by the group's ties with Iraqi militias.

Oil exports: A thorny issue

The resumption of oil exports from the Kurdistan Region to Turkey remains a contentious issue. Turkey desires to resume these exports but is cautious of legal complications with the Iraqi government. Mustafa explained that Turkey aims to avoid jeopardizing its economy with regional and international disputes. Therefore, Turkey is likely to assist both Erbil and Baghdad in resolving

outstanding issues based on the Iraqi constitution to facilitate the legal resumption of oil exports via Turkish pipelines.

While the media spotlight focused on high-level meetings and official statements, it's crucial to consider the local impact of Erdogan's visit. The Kurdish public, who have endured years of political and economic uncertainty, are cautiously optimistic about the potential for increased trade and investment. However, concerns regarding Turkish influence and potential military operations linger.

Looking ahead: A balancing act

Erdogan's visit to Iraq and the Kurdistan Region signifies a renewed push for dialogue and cooperation. The potential for stronger economic ties and increased trade offers a promising path forward. However, lingering security concerns surrounding the PKK and the complexities of oil exports pose significant challenges.

The Role of the KRG in Shaping a Stable Future for Kurdistan



By *Tahir Taeb Jaff*

The Kurdistan Region, as an important part of the Middle East, finds itself at a crossroads, grappling with myriad challenges ranging from political instability to economic uncertainty and humanitarian crises. In the midst of this turmoil, the Kurdistan Region stands as a key player, intimately connected to the region's dynamics and unable to remain isolated from its consequences. As conflicts and tensions continue to simmer across the Middle East, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) faces the formidable task of safeguarding the interests of the Kurdish community while navigating through treacherous waters of regional politics. The question arises: How can the Kurdistan Regional Government effectively manage the region away from the vortex of regional conflicts?

Fostering strong diplomatic relations at both the regional and international levels is of utmost importance. The KRG must actively engage with neighboring countries and international stakeholders to promote dialogue, build trust, and seek peaceful solutions to regional conflicts, particularly those concerning the Kurds and the issue of securing their national, humanitarian, and cultural rights within the International borders. By enhancing diplomacy and conflict resolution mechanisms, the Kurdistan Regional Government can play a constructive role in easing tensions and promoting stability in the Kurdish region and the broader Middle East as a whole.

Investing in economic, social, and infrastructural development within the Kurdistan Region is essential for long-term stability. This is achieved by prioritizing education, healthcare, job creation, and infrastructure projects, addressing economic and social disparities, and providing a dignified life for its citizens. This is particularly crucial in times where the region flourishes, as it not only strengthens the Kurdish community but also serves as a beacon of hope and stability amidst regional disturbances.

Moreover, the Kurdistan Regional Government must actively participate in regional initiatives aimed at fostering cooperation, economic integration, and mutual understanding among neighboring countries. By promoting cross-border trade, economic investment, and cultural exchange, the Kurdistan Region can serve as a bridge for dialogue and collaboration in the Middle East, transcending political divisions and the borders imposed by colonial powers in the early twentieth century.

Furthermore, upholding democratic principles, good governance, and respect for human rights are fundamental for building trust and legitimacy both domestically and internationally. Therefore, the KRG must prioritize transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in its governance practices, ensuring that the voices of all societal components within the Kurdistan Region are heard and represented.

In conclusion, the challenges facing the Kurdistan Region, as a part of the Middle East, are complex and multifaceted, but they also present opportunities for positive change and transformation. The region plays a crucial role in shaping a stable and prosperous future for its people and the peoples of the Middle East as a whole, by adopting an active and constructive approach to regional dynamics, mitigating the impact of conflicts, promoting peace and stability, and paving the way for a better future for Kurdistan and all the peoples of the region.

Qaladze and Sulaimani University bombings: President Massoud Barzani condemns as 'black page of brutality' by former Iraqi regime



Kurdistan marks the anniversary of devastating tragedy, calls for international action

Fifty years ago, the tranquility of Qaladze and Sulaimani University was shattered by Iraqi airstrikes, leaving an indelible mark on the soul of Kurdistan. President Massoud Barzani's recent message stands as a poignant tribute to the enduring spirit of a nation that continues to grapple with the shadows of past brutality.

Solemn words on a solemn day

In a somber address delivered on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, President Massoud Barzani released a statement condemning the bombings as a dark stain on the former Iraqi regime's record, reflecting their disregard for the Kurdish people. "The bombing of Qaladze and Sulaimani University is a black page of the brutality and indifference of the former Iraqi regime towards the Kurdish people," President Barzani remarked.

He recalled the harrowing events of that day, expressing deep sorrow for the loss of innocent lives and the lasting impact on Kurdistan's collective memory.

"On the fiftieth anniversary of the brutal bombings of Qaladze and Sulaimani University, we offer our condolences to the souls of the martyrs of this tragedy and all those who have perished in the struggle for Kurdistan," President Barzani declared solemnly.

Honoring the fallen,

embracing resolve

Echoing these sentiments, Kurdistan Regional President Nechirvan Barzani emphasized the importance of honoring the victims. "This day marks the 50th anniversary of the martyrdom of dozens of students, professors from Sulaimani University, and innocent civilians in Qaladze," he stated. "We remember them with deep respect and appreciation for their sacrifice."

President of the Kurdistan Region continued, "The loss of students, professors, and civilians in this cowardly act of aerial bombardment only strengthened the spirit and determination of the Kurdish people to confront injustice and dictatorship. It reaffirmed their commitment to their cause, their demands, and their legitimate rights, fueling their ongoing struggle."

Learning from the past, building a better future

The President of the Kurdistan Region emphasized the importance of learning from this tragedy. "This crime is a painful chapter in Kurdish history," he said. "We must learn from it and take action through unity, solidarity, and cooperation to ensure such atrocities are never repeated. We must work with hope towards a brighter future."

KRG PM Barzani condemns Qaladze bombing

In a statement, Masrouf Bar-

zani, Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), strongly condemned the Qaladze bombing. "50 years ago today, the Ba'ath regime bombarded Qaladze, killing and wounding hundreds and forever changing the city."

Prime Minister Barzani continued, "They also shot at peaceful protesters who commemorated the attack in 1982. The martyrs will never be forgotten; their sacrifices are part of our nation's story."

A haunting memory, a call to action

Prof. Dr. Karzan Mohammed, a lecturer at Sulaimani Polytechnic University, shared a personal story that brought the tragedy to life. He recounted the experience of Ahmadi Haji Sabir, who lost his entire family when their home was struck by a napalm bomb during the bombing campaign. Dr. Mohammed also described the Ba'ath regime's brutal response to a 1982 commemoration of the genocide, which resulted in the deaths of two courageous women, Ms. Sanawbar and Mother Amina.

Dr. Mohammed concluded by urging the international community and international organizations to take more effective and strong actions in safeguarding the national and human rights of the Kurdish people and other stateless communities.

KRG PM Barzani Vows to Uphold Press Freedom, Highlighting Progress in Kurdistan Journalism

In a resounding declaration at the Erbil International Summit of Journalists, Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Prime Minister Masrour Barzani reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to safeguarding press freedom. Held on Kurdish Journalism Day, the summit served as a platform to not only discuss contemporary challenges in journalism but also celebrate the rich history of the Kurdish press.

PM Barzani's remarks resonated with journalists and attendees alike, underscoring the critical role a free press plays in strengthening democratic principles within the Kurdistan Region. His words resonated particularly in light of the summit coinciding with Kurdish Journalism Day and the founding of the Kurdistan Journalists Union, both milestones commemorated during the event.

PM Barzani championing media freedom

Taking to his social media platform, X, Prime Minister Barzani expressed his gratitude towards Kurdish journalists, acknowledging their "contributions and hard work." He reiterated the KRG's unwavering support for "freedom of press and expression in the Kurdistan Region."

PM Barzani's commitment extended beyond social media. During the summit, he emphasized the government's dedication to "fostering and encouraging the right conditions for journalism and freedom of speech within a legal framework." He acknowledged the challenges faced by female journalists, pledging the KRG's commitment to "putting an end to all barriers" they encounter in fulfilling their professional duties.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the significant progress made in press freedom within the Kurdistan Region. He expressed pride in the region's "modern press law" and the considerable advancements made in "journalism and freedom of speech."

Challenges and the importance of responsible journalism

Barzani firmly acknowledged the potential misuse of press freedom. He cautioned that the Kurdistan Region's enemies may attempt to exploit this freedom, "which is rare



in the region," to undermine democratic principles and the region's stability.

Emphasizing the importance of responsible journalism, PM Barzani expressed his hope that Kurdish journalists would strive to "convey the truth, promote Kurdistan, serve the people, defend the rights of the Kurdish people, and protect and develop the constitutional structure of the Kurdistan Region." He notified journalists against allowing "the values of the country and the high interests of the Kurdish people to be insulted in the name of journalism."

Collaboration and addressing gender issues

The summit wasn't solely focused on pronouncements by the KRG Prime Minister. Azad Hamademin, Head of the Kurdistan Journalists Syndicate, expressed his appreciation to the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) for selecting Erbil to host the event. He also extended his gratitude to the KRG for supporting the Kurdistan Journalists Union in organizing the summit.

Discussions addressed various critical issues impacting journalists globally. A key focus was on gender equality, with topics including violence against female journalists, their experiences in war zones, the gender pay gap, and their access to leadership roles within journalist unions.

The importance of addressing these issues was underscored by Pamla Morirrio, Spokesperson and Head of Communication in the Women Committee of the International Journalists Federation. In an interview with The Kurdish Globe, she highlighted the summit's role in providing "a valuable platform" to discuss these critical matters.

Safety concerns for journalists in a climate of conflict

The current global climate of conflict featured prominently in discussions, with a particular focus on the safety of journalists, especially women. Maria Anjl, head of the Gender Committee in the International Journalists Federation (IJF), emphasized the heightened significance of the summit due

to these concerns.

In an interview with the Kurdish Globe, she pointed to the "growing concerns about global conflicts and their impact on journalist safety, particularly for women." She noted that while issues like workplace harassment and leadership opportunities for female journalists remain important, "the question of security and human rights has become paramount."

The plight of Palestinian women journalists facing a situation, Anjl described as "a clear situation of genocide by Israel" was a particular cause for concern. The need for global solidarity with journalists who risk their lives to report the truth was a key takeaway from the summit.

In closing, Anjl stressed the urgent need to revisit the Beijing Declaration, a landmark document outlining commitments towards gender equality. She emphasized the crucial role the IFJ can play in advocating progress, particularly within the media industry, where she noted that "compliance has been practically non-existent."

Rahman Gharib, Coordinator of the Metro Center for the Protection of Journalists' Rights, succinctly emphasized the importance of press freedom, stating it as the cornerstone for the development of journalism, writing, literature, and the arts. He continued by stressing the concept of responsibility, noting that just as journalists advocate for the implementation of journalism law, they must also uphold their professional obligations. In essence, he highlighted the importance of a balanced approach, where rights and duties go hand in hand.

The Erbil International Summit of Journalists served as a significant platform for reaffirming the Kurdistan Region's commitment to press freedom. It also provided a valuable space for journalists to address the challenges they face and advocate for a safer, more equitable future for their profession.

Security and Trade Loomed Large in a Long-Awaited Visit



By **Jawad Qadir**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's recent visit to Erbil on an official trip to engage with officials from the Kurdistan Region is a significant development. Upon his arrival, President Erdogan was greeted by top Kurdistan Region officials, emphasizing the growing diplomatic ties between Ankara and Erbil. Prior to his visit to Erbil, Erdogan had a meeting with Iraq's Prime Minister in Baghdad. This visit by Erdogan to Erbil is historic as it marks the first time a Turkish president has visited the Kurdistan Region, underscoring the importance of this event.

Similar to previous visits by high-ranking officials from Ankara, the recent visit of the Turkish President to Iraq and the Kurdistan Region focused on discussions regarding border protection, security, and stability in the region. These discussions have resulted in agreements and understandings, with trade serving as a guise for political and security arrangements.

The Kurdistan Region holds a significant role in the efforts made by Turkey and Iraq to enhance their economic and trade relations. The continuity and progress of the relations between Baghdad and Ankara are contingent upon the nature and level of relations between Ankara and Erbil. This highlights the Kurdistan Region's active involvement in regional relations and its own geopolitical, political, and economic significance.

Trade between Iraq and Turkey amounts to approximately \$20 billion, with a significant portion of this trade occurring through the Kurdistan Region via land routes. The much discussed Strategic Development Road project serves as a connection point between Iraq and Turkey, specifically within the Kurdistan Region. Consequently, the Kurdistan Region will once again assume a pivotal role as the primary point of connection and bridge between the two countries.

The recent signing of the quadrilateral agreement involving Iraq, Qatar, UAE, and Turkey regarding the Development Road project is anticipated to have significant implications on the economic landscape and political dynamics within the region. Endorsed by the United States, this agreement marks the initiation of a fresh era of political alignment and economic competition that will influence the trajectory of conflicts and power struggles at both regional and global levels.

The Kurdistan Region demonstrates significant potential in terms of security, peace, and stability in the relationship between Ankara and Baghdad. The Turkish authorities acknowledge that the security and stability of both Iraq and the Kurdistan Region are interdependent. Consequently, Turkey perceives Iraq and the Kurdistan Region as interconnected entities that complement each other, rather than viewing one as a replacement for the other.

Turkiye's role as a key partner for Kurdistan Region extends beyond military and security matters, encompassing energy cooperation as well. This is evident in the facilitation of significant oil exports from Kurdistan Region through the Ceyhan port. Nevertheless, disagreements surrounding oil exports, have resulted in strains and disruptions in the oil trade relationship. Recent dialogues between Iraqi and Turkish authorities, along with engagements with global allies such as the United States, have underscored the necessity of ensuring the flow of Iraqi oil to international markets. This highlights a renewed commitment to reestablishing the pipeline between Iraqi Kurdistan Region and Turkey.

Deadly drone terror attack on Khor Mor gas field sparks national and international condemnation

Fri 18:43:45



The photo shows the moment the Iranian-made Shahid 101 is about to hit the Khor Mor gas field

Four foreign workers were killed in a drone attack targeting the Khor Mor gas field in the Kurdistan Region's Sulaimani province, sparking national and international condemnation.

At least four Yemeni workers were killed and two other workers injured in a one-way drone attack, targeting Kurdistan's largest gas field located in Sulaimani's Chamchamal area.

According to a joint statement from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) gas supplies to power plants were also halted as a result of the attack, resulting in a reduction of approximately 2,500 MW of power generation.

The KRG Prime Minister Masrout Barzani in a statement condemned the attack, urging the federal government "to credibly investigate, hold the perpetrators accountable, and provide lasting assurances to our people."

PM Barzani revealed that the drone was launched from a nearby region within Iraq, calling on the Iraqi government to take swift action "to not allow these terrorists to menace us at will. It must control the lawless groups that harm us all."

"Attacks on energy hubs that power millions of homes in the Kurdistan Region and Iraqi provinces are indefensible. These attacks also sabotage efforts by Erbil and Baghdad to develop the energy sector. They happen with disturbing frequency and

amount to war crimes," the statement added.

No group has taken responsibility for Friday's attack on the gas field that contains more than 7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves. The Pearl Consortium, Dana Gas and its affiliate Crescent Petroleum, have the rights to exploit Khor Mor and Chemchamal, two of the biggest gas fields in Kurdistan Region and Iraq.

The Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani in a statement also condemned the drone strike that targeted the Khor Mor gas field.

The statement added that "it is crucial to emphasize that these acts of violence pose a threat to the peace and stability of the country. It is imperative for the authorities from the Iraqi Federal Government to fulfill their responsibilities in order to thwart such attacks and apprehend the culprits, irrespective of their affiliations, and ensure that they face legal consequences."

Khor Mor in Sulaimani's Chamchamal district frequently comes under attack, reportedly by Iran-affiliated Iraqi militias taking advantage of its strategic and economic importance for the Kurdistan Region, leading to major power disruptions across the Kurdistan Region and hindering expansion plans at the site.

Iraq's governing coalition condemned "the criminal attack" on the Khor Mor field, revealing that the prime minister announced that clues

have been found that would lead to those involved being brought to justice once the investigation is complete." The statement was issued following a meeting of Iraq's State Administration Coalition also attended by Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani.

US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said: The United States strongly condemns today's attack on energy infrastructure in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. Attacks like this are an affront to Iraq's sovereignty."

The US Ambassador to Iraq in a post on the X platform urged Iraqi authorities conduct a full investigation and bring those responsible to justice. We express our condolences for those lost. The US will continue to work with the Government of Iraq and Kurdistan Regional Government in support of Iraqi security, stability, and sovereignty.

Qatar, Jordan, UAE, Yemen and Bahrain foreign ministries in separate statements have all condemned the drone strike on Khor Mor gas field.

"We condemn the attack on Khor Mor gas field, which provides electricity to the public in the Kurdistan Region. Our condolences to the families of those killed, and we wish the injured speedy recovery. We welcome investigation to identify and bring the attackers to justice," UN-AMI statement said.

Kurdistan Matters

The Current Constitutional Moment in Baghdad



By *Dr. Tyler Fisher*
& *Sebastián Delgado*

The Iraqi Constitution faces a crisis. Iraq's Federal Supreme Court (FSC), a court deriving its authority not from the Constitution but from statutes, has abjured basic principles of judicial restraint, and in so doing, threatened the fabric of federalism. Reformers denounce the FSC as unconstitutional. It has strayed far from its role, they say, and has degraded its independence. Maybe they are right. But change should heed the Burkean creed: change should be implemented incrementally, giving due consideration to history, constitutional straits, and consensus. If not, reformers may cause what they seek to prevent: the constitutional system's end.

In federal systems, the judiciary tends to be the least dangerous branch: "[The Judiciary] may truly be said to have neither FORCE nor WILL, but merely judgment; and must ultimately depend upon the aid of the executive arm even for the efficacy of its judgments," Alexander Hamilton wrote in *The Federalist Papers*. Still, courts with power to interpret what constitutions and statutes mean inevitably affect the constitutional arrangement.

Recent FSC rulings, among them the decision to rescind the Speaker of Parliament's membership in the legislature, have been criticized by analysts and scholars as unconstitutional, the meddling of politicians wearing judges' robes. Such rulings, critics add, show the FSC engaging in politics. In effect, the FSC has abandoned constitutional principles. Moreover, other critics charge that the FSC follows creed, not law. (Critics support this claim by pointing to the FSC's makeup and the simple-majority rule for its decisions. Its membership comprises five Shia, two Sunni, and two Kurdish Judges.) If such politicking is not rectified, critics deduce, the federal system in place could soon crumble.

Perhaps they are right: The FSC jettisoned basic principles of judicial restraint in venturing beyond constitutional strictures and deciding how the political branches should run. So too, the FSC has become a legislature, abrogating for itself the power to pass judgment on bills in their draft stage. In so doing, the FSC conflicts not only with courts' proper role in a federal system but also with the Iraqi Constitution that established that system.



But this does not mean that the FSC should be discarded or that reforms should jolt the constitutional arrangement. The problem these critics square against is that of altering the constitutional arrangement in light of decisions cutting against their view of the Constitution. Recall Edmund Burke's words: "No government could stand a moment if it could be blown down with anything so loose and indefinite as an opinion of misconduct."

Today, these critics assert, the FSC has shirked its constitutional role and entered politicking. But in reaching this claim, critics cast their attacks back to the FSC's founding, back to when the Constitution was being drafted. They argue, for instance, that the FSC should not have operated to begin with since its existence was not approved by a necessary supermajority. And so, their argument runs, the FSC has, since its creation, rendered extraconstitutional rulings. There is a problem, however, with critics taking this approach. Since this reaction comes after rulings unfavorable to multiple sectors, especially regional governments, critics' arguments can sound like wanting to undo the FSC only because it rendered decisions against their preferred constitutional outlook. Their arguments, moreover, chime with the very overreaction that Burke warned against.

Yet this does not necessarily mean that critics err in wanting reform. Instead, if they seek to improve the FSC, they should do so adhering to the step-by-step blueprint Burke

outlined. Those wanting reform should not, in their quest to improve the FSC, vitiate the federal system. Reform should thus track separation-of-powers principles rather than upend the current arrangement in favor of short-term expedients. In other words, governments need to exercise caution while seeking improvements and working within constitutional parameters.

If reformers enact quick fixes, they risk unraveling the constitutional framework. They compromise judicial independence—a pillar they claim recent rulings have eroded—by submitting the FSC to Parliament. At the same time, however, federalism principles must be closely observed. As Burke put it, "Public troubles have often called upon the Country to look into its Constitution. It has ever been bettered by such a revision." So what should reform look like?

Burkean reform ought to restore and preserve the constitutional system. For the FSC, this would mean either inscribing the Court within the Constitution or amending certain constitutional provisions about the FSC's jurisdiction. Such revisions, however, should happen with broad agreement. Reformers otherwise risk being cast as constitutional underminers rather than upholders. Broad agreement seems hard, especially since Baghdad aims to centralize more and more authority. But if Baghdad risks long-term constitutional balance for policy expedients, it too jeopardizes the Constitution and its place in it.

Fundamentally, the federal government in Baghdad must stop using the FSC as a political tool. If the government seeks policy changes, it must do so through prescribed constitutional means. The FSC's doings reflect the dangers of tinkering too much with courts, of over-relying on courts for policy. This prerogative lies beyond courts' defined tasks. The FSC has overstepped its remit, imperiling the Constitution and shirking the most basic principles of federalism. Rather than monitoring the rule of law and shielding the Constitution from encroachments, the FSC has made policy.

That said, those wanting change should not enact such abruptly. Nor should they place blame on the judiciary. Instead, reformers should adopt step-by-step reforms, including limiting the FSC's jurisdiction (given that its authority stems from statutes rather than the Constitution). And these changes should be adopted with wide support. While the FSC's rulings have delivered policy and political goals, the very constitutional system is endangered: the political branches should place the preservation of constitutional federalism above political expediency. And they should enact policies to protect the judiciary rather than submit it to the political branches. In short, this crisis can not only save the Constitution, but can also assuage factional disputes. The Constitution belongs to all, and its preservation is everyone's responsibility.

United States... Any election without Kurdistan Democratic Party, the Ethnic and religious components is inadequate



The Dynamics of the Next Election in the Kurdistan Region: KDP's Role and the USA's Stance

By *Saadula Agrawi*

The Kurdistan Region is once again preparing to hold pivotal elections that will shape the political landscape in the region. As the KDP consolidates its position as a hegemonic power, the role of the United States looms large, affecting internal dynamics and external relations. The complexities of the upcoming elections and the tangled relationship between the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the United States of America. Continued KDP influence: The KDP, led by President Barzani, has maintained its stronghold on Kurdish politics for decades. Thanks to its historical roots and broad support base, the KDP has played an important role in shaping governance and policies in the region. As the next elections approach, the KDP's influence remains palpable, with its organizational prowess and well-established networks placing it as the front-runner. Key Issues and Challenges: Despite his strong position in Iraq, the Kurds face many challenges and issues that could affect the Kurds prospects.

I believe that in any democratic process lies the principle of representation. And with the exception of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, which has historically enjoyed significant support and political influence, this deprives a large portion of the Kurdish popula-

tion of their right to representation. Likewise, the marginalization of ethnic and Religious minorities further marginalizes already underrepresented communities, hindering their ability to express their concerns and aspirations through legitimate channels.

I'm sure that the exclusion of minorities in Kurdistan not only undermines democratic principles, but also jeopardizes the stability and progress of the region. For this reason, holding elections without the participation of the Kurdistan Democratic Party and minorities is fundamentally inappropriate

The United States closely monitors developments in Kurdish politics and maintains diplomatic relations with key players, including the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

As the Iraqi Kurdistan region prepares for its upcoming elections, the absence of key political players, namely the Kurdistan Democratic Party and other minorities, raises major concerns about the legitimacy and inclusiveness of the electoral process. In a region characterized by ethnic diversity and political complexity, excluding these stakeholders not only undermines democratic principles, but also jeopardizes the region's stability and progress. For this reason, holding elections without the participation of the Kurdistan Democratic Party and other minorities in Kurdistan Region, is fundamentally inappropriate:

- Democratic representation: At the heart of any democratic process lies the principle of representation. The Kurdistan

Democratic Party, which has historically enjoyed significant support and political influence, this deprives a large portion of the Kurdish population of their right to representation. Likewise, the marginalization of minorities further marginalizes already underrepresented communities, hindering their ability to express their concerns and aspirations through legitimate channels.

- Political pluralism: Political pluralism is essential to promoting a vibrant and inclusive democracy. The absence of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, one of the major political forces in the region, reduces the diversity of ideologies and political platforms available to voters. Likewise, the exclusion of minorities deprives the electoral landscape of valuable perspectives and insights, narrowing the scope of political debate and discourse.

- Social cohesion: In a region characterized by ethnic and religious diversity, inclusive governance is crucial to promoting social cohesion and harmony. The exclusion of key political actors risks exacerbating existing tensions and divisions, and undermining efforts to build a unified and inclusive society. Moreover, disenfranchising minorities sends a disheartening message of exclusion and discrimination, eroding trust in the political system and institutions.

- Legitimacy and stability: The legitimacy of any government or electoral result depends on the comprehensiveness and integrity of the electoral process. Elections that exclude political players

and important sectors of the population risk being viewed as illegitimate, casting doubt on the credibility of the results and fueling instability and unrest. Moreover, in the absence of broad-based representation, the resulting government may lack the legitimacy and mandate necessary to effectively address the challenges facing the region.

- International standing: The exclusion of major political actors and minority groups also has implications for the international standing and relations of the Kurdistan Region. The lack of inclusivity undermines the region's credibility as a democratic entity committed to upholding basic rights and principles. This could also strain relations with international partners and allies who value democratic governance and inclusivity in their dealings with the region.

Holding elections without the participation of the KDP and minorities in Kurdistan Region, is not only inappropriate, but also harmful to the Kurdistan Region's democratic aspirations, social cohesion, and stability. To ensure a fair, inclusive and credible electoral process, it is necessary to embrace political pluralism, support democratic principles, and actively involve all segments of society in the political decision-making process. Only through true inclusivity can the Kurdistan Region chart a path toward a more prosperous, equitable and democratic future.

I believe that the economic problems, which were exacerbated by the policy of the federal government in Iraq and the

cessation of the export of the region's oil, led to the strain of financial resources in the region and the deterioration of the economic situation of the region's residents. Addressing economic concerns and achieving tangible improvements in living standards will be critical for the KRG to retain its voter base. Moreover, achieving the delicate balance between internal unity and external relations poses another challenge for the Kurds. Tensions with neighboring countries, internal divisions within the Kurdish political landscape, and the ongoing struggle for Kurdish federal autonomy within Iraq add layers of complexity to the agenda of the federal government in Iraq. The United States' share in Kurdish politics:

We know that the United States has long been an influential player in Iraqi and Kurdish affairs, especially since the 2003 invasion. In the Kurdistan region, US strategic interests, including stability, security, and oil resources, intersect with its broader regional goals. As such, the United States closely monitors developments in Kurdish politics and maintains diplomatic relations with key players, including the KDP. Current Dynamics: The relationship between the KDP and the United States has seen fluctuations over the years, influenced by various factors such as regional geopolitics, security concerns, and economic interests. While the Kurdistan Democratic Party traditionally enjoys a close strategic relationship with the United States. The US withdrawal from Af-

ghanistan, along with the recalibration of its priorities in the Middle East, has raised speculation about the extent of US involvement in Kurdish affairs. In addition, divergent interests between the United States and regional powers, such as Turkey and Iran, could affect the dynamics of relations between the United States and the KDP.

Yes, as the upcoming elections in the Kurdistan Region approach, the Kurdistan Democratic Party finds itself at a historic turning point, as it overcomes internal challenges and external pressures. The ability of the Kurds to address social and economic concerns, enhance internal cohesion, and adapt to evolving geopolitical dynamics. At the same time, the United States' position toward the Kurdistan Region and the Kurdistan Democratic Party will continue to influence the political landscape in the region. While the extent of US involvement remains uncertain, the KDP's historical ties and strategic location indicate that its relationship with the United States will remain a key factor in the upcoming elections and beyond. In conclusion, the upcoming elections in the Kurdistan Region promise to be a pivotal moment in shaping the future course of the region. As Kurdistan parties compete to achieve electoral success amid internal and external challenges, the dynamics of its relationship with the United States will play a decisive role in determining the outcome and shaping the broader geopolitical landscape in the region.

Strengthening Bilateral Ties, the Visit of the Iraqi Prime Minister to the USA



By **James Harris**

Fortifying Stability, the Security Agreement between Iraq and the USA

The recent visit of the Iraqi Prime Minister to the United States marks a significant milestone in bilateral relations between the two nations. Against the backdrop of regional challenges and opportunities, this visit presents a platform for dialogue, cooperation, and mutual understanding. The key objectives, outcomes, and implications of the Iraqi Prime Minister's visit to the USA.

Enhancing Diplomatic Relations, The visit underscores the commitment of both Iraq and the USA to strengthening their diplomatic ties and fostering closer cooperation on a range of issues, including security, economy, and regional stability. High-level meetings and discussions provide an opportunity to deepen understanding, build trust, and explore avenues for collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

Security Cooperation, Security cooperation between Iraq and the USA remains a cornerstone of their bilateral relationship, particularly in the fight against terrorism and extremism. The visit provides an opportunity to reaffirm commitments to security assistance, intelligence sharing, and military cooperation, with a focus on stabilizing Iraq, countering terrorist threats, and ensuring the safety and security of both nations.

Economic Partnership, Economic ties between Iraq and the USA hold immense potential for mutual benefit and prosperity. The visit aims to promote trade, investment, and economic development initiatives that contribute to job creation, infrastructure improvement, and sustainable growth in both countries. Discussions may include opportunities for American companies to participate in Iraq's reconstruction efforts and invest in key sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and technology.

Regional Stability and Peace building, Iraq plays a crucial role in promoting stability and peace in the Middle East region. The

visit provides an opportunity for Iraq and the USA to coordinate their efforts in addressing regional challenges, resolving conflicts, and promoting dialogue among neighboring countries. Discussions may focus on regional security dynamics, diplomatic initiatives, and humanitarian assistance efforts aimed at alleviating the suffering of vulnerable populations.

Humanitarian Assistance and Development Aid, The visit highlights the importance of humanitarian assistance and development aid in supporting Iraq's recovery and reconstruction efforts. The USA reaffirms its commitment to providing humanitarian assistance, including support for refugees, internally displaced persons, and vulnerable communities affected by conflict and displacement. Discussions may also address long-term development priorities, capacity-building initiatives, and reconstruction projects aimed at rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure and institutions.

Cultural and Educational Exchanges, Cultural and educational exchanges play a vital role in enhancing people-to-people ties and fostering mutual understanding between Iraqis and Americans. The visit provides an opportunity to explore opportunities for academic collaboration, student exchanges, and cultural diplomacy initiatives that promote cross-cultural dialogue, tolerance, and respect for diversity.

Future Collaboration and Engagement, The visit sets the stage for future collaboration and engagement between Iraq and the USA, laying the groundwork for a strategic partnership based on shared interests, values, and objectives. Both nations reaffirm their commitment to working together to address common challenges, seize opportunities, and build a more peaceful, prosperous, and stable future for the people of Iraq and the USA.

The visit of the Iraqi



Prime Minister to the USA symbolizes a renewed commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and advancing shared goals and objectives. Through dialogue, cooperation, and mutual respect, Iraq and the USA aim to build a strategic partnership that promotes peace, stability, and prosperity in the Middle East region and beyond. As both nations navigate the complexities of regional dynamics and global challenges, the visit serves as a testament to their enduring friendship and commitment to a brighter future for generations to come.

The security agreement between Iraq and the United States represents a pivotal framework for bilateral cooperation aimed at enhancing stability, countering terrorism, and promoting regional security. As both nations navigate complex geopolitical challenges and evolving security threats, the agreement underscores their shared commitment to collaboration and partnership. The significance, objectives, and implications of the security agreement between Iraq and the USA. **Enhancing Security Cooperation,** The security agreement serves as a cornerstone of the strategic partnership between Iraq and the USA, facilitating cooper-

ation on a wide range of security-related issues. It provides a framework for joint efforts in combating terrorism, insurgency, and transnational crime, while also addressing emerging threats such as cyber attacks and hybrid warfare.

Strengthening Counterterrorism Efforts, Counterterrorism cooperation is a central component of the security agreement, with both nations committed to disrupting and dismantling terrorist networks operating within Iraq's borders and beyond. The agreement facilitates intelligence sharing, military training, and operational coordination to prevent terrorist attacks, apprehend suspects, and degrade extremist organizations. Supporting Iraqi Security Forces, The security agreement reaffirms the USA's commitment to supporting the development and professionalization of Iraq's security forces, including the Iraqi Army, Police, and Counterterrorism Service. Through training, equipment provision, and capacity-building initiatives, the USA assists Iraq in enhancing its defense capabilities, improving operational effectiveness, and ensuring the security of its citizens.

Promoting Stability and Sovereignty, The security

agreement respects Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, emphasizing the importance of Iraqi ownership and leadership in addressing security challenges within its borders. It provides a framework for cooperative security arrangements that uphold Iraq's national interests, while also safeguarding regional stability and preventing external interference in Iraq's internal affairs. Addressing Regional Threats, The security agreement recognizes the interconnected nature of security threats in the Middle East region and the importance of collective action in addressing shared challenges. It promotes cooperation between Iraq and the USA in countering regional threats such as cross-border terrorism, illicit arms trafficking, and destabilizing activities by state and non-state actors.

Humanitarian Assistance and Crisis Response, Beyond traditional security concerns, the security agreement includes provisions for humanitarian assistance and crisis response to address the humanitarian impact of conflicts and natural disasters in Iraq. The USA stands ready to provide support and assistance to Iraqi authorities in times of crisis, including emergency relief, medical assistance,

and logistical support.

Civilian Oversight and Accountability: The security agreement includes mechanisms for civilian oversight and accountability to ensure that security cooperation between Iraq and the USA is conducted in accordance with international law, human rights standards, and democratic principles. It promotes transparency, accountability, and respect for the rule of law in all aspects of security cooperation.

The security agreement between Iraq and the USA represents a vital framework for bilateral cooperation aimed at promoting stability, countering terrorism, and safeguarding regional security. By fostering mutual trust, cooperation, and shared objectives, the agreement strengthens the strategic partnership between the two nations and underscores their commitment to a safer, more secure future for the people of Iraq and the wider Middle East region. As both nations continue to navigate complex security challenges and evolving threats, the security agreement serves as a testament to their enduring commitment to peace, stability, and prosperity.

The Importance of Energy in the Kurdistan Region

Re-exporting the oil of the Kurdistan Region holds promise as a catalyst for economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional cooperation.

By *Dr. Mathew Jose*

Regional Stability and Cooperation, Energy Security and Diversification Sustainable Development Goals

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq stands as a pivotal player in the global energy landscape, endowed with significant oil and natural gas reserves. The region's energy resources hold immense potential to fuel economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional stability. The importance of energy in the Kurdistan Region and its implications for the region's prosperity and beyond. Energy serves as the backbone of the Kurdistan Region's economy, driving revenue generation, investment, and job creation. The region's oil and gas sector forms the cornerstone of its economy, contributing significantly to government revenues and GDP growth. Energy exports provide vital income streams that fund public services, infrastructure projects, and social programs, fostering economic development and improving living standards for the region's residents.

The Kurdistan Region's energy resources attract substantial foreign investment from international oil companies (IOCs) and energy firms seeking to tap into its vast reserves. The region's favorable investment climate, including contractual terms, fiscal incentives, and regulatory frameworks, encourages foreign participation in exploration, production, and development projects. Foreign investment inflows bolster the region's economic competitiveness, technology transfer, and capacity building, driving innovation and efficiency in the energy sector. Energy development in the Kurdistan Region necessitates significant investments in infrastructure, including pipelines, refineries, terminals, and power plants.



Infrastructure projects not only facilitate the extraction, processing, and transportation of oil and gas but also stimulate ancillary industries and services, such as construction, logistics, and engineering. Infrastructure development enhances the region's connectivity, resilience, and economic diversification, laying the foundation for sustainable growth and prosperity.

Energy cooperation in the Kurdistan Region has the potential to foster regional stability, peace, and cooperation among neighboring countries. Collaborative efforts to develop cross-border energy infrastructure, such as pipelines and transmission networks, promote economic interdependence and mutual benefits, transcending political differences and historical tensions. Energy diplomacy and trade partnerships strengthen diplomatic ties, promote dialogue, and mitigate conflicts, contributing to peace building and reconciliation in the region. The Kurdistan Region's energy resources play a crucial role in enhancing energy security and diversification at both the regional and global levels. As a reliable supplier of oil and

gas, the region contributes to global energy markets, mitigating supply disruptions and price volatility. Energy diversification efforts, including renewable energy projects and energy efficiency initiatives, reduce dependence on fossil fuels and enhance energy resilience, addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable development.

Energy development in the Kurdistan Region aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). By investing in clean energy technologies, promoting energy efficiency, and adopting sustainable practices, the region can contribute to global efforts to combat climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and achieve a low-carbon future. The Kurdistan Region's energy resources are a cornerstone of its economic prosperity, regional stability, and sustainable development. By leveraging its energy potential, the region can drive economic growth, attract foreign investment, and foster cooperation

among nations. However, realizing the full benefits of energy development requires strategic planning, investment in infrastructure, and commitment to sustainable practices that balance economic growth with environmental stewardship. With a forward-looking approach and collaborative efforts, the Kurdistan Region can harness the power of energy to propel itself towards a brighter and more prosperous future.

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq is endowed with significant oil reserves, making it a key player in the global energy landscape. The efforts to re-export Kurdish oil have gained traction, presenting new opportunities for economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional cooperation. The potential benefits and challenges of re-exporting the oil of the Kurdistan Region and its implications for the region and beyond.

Re-exporting Kurdish oil opens up new markets and trading routes for the region's oil producers. By diversifying export destinations, Kurdistan can reduce its dependence on traditional markets and tap into emerging economies with growing en-

ergy demands, such as Asia, Europe, and beyond. Re-exporting oil requires investment in infrastructure, including pipelines, terminals, and storage facilities, which can stimulate economic development and create job opportunities. Improvements in infrastructure enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of the oil sector, attracting further investment and fostering growth in related industries. Re-exporting oil enables Kurdistan to maximize its revenue potential by accessing higher-value markets and commanding premium prices for its crude oil. The additional revenue generated from re-exporting can be reinvested in infrastructure projects, social programs, and economic diversification initiatives, driving sustainable development and prosperity.

Re-exporting Kurdish oil has the potential to strengthen regional cooperation and integration, fostering economic ties and mutual benefits among neighboring countries. Collaborative efforts to develop cross-border infrastructure and trade routes can promote stability, prosperity, and peace in the region, transcend-

ing political differences and historical tensions. Re-exporting Kurdish oil may have political implications, particularly in the context of Iraq's federal governance structure and relations between the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and the central government in Baghdad. Negotiating revenue-sharing agreements and resolving disputes over oil revenues are critical to ensuring the sustainability and legality of re-exporting initiatives.

Global oil markets are influenced by various factors, including supply and demand dynamics, geopolitical tensions, and environmental concerns. The success of re-exporting Kurdish oil depends on market conditions, pricing trends, and the ability to adapt to changing market dynamics and regulatory frameworks. Re-exporting oil may have environmental and social implications, including the potential for environmental degradation, pollution, and displacement of communities. Sustainable practices and responsible stewardship of natural resources are essential to minimize negative impacts and ensure the long-term viability of the oil sector. Re-exporting the oil of the Kurdistan Region holds promise as a catalyst for economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional cooperation. By expanding market access, generating revenue, and fostering cooperation, Kurdistan can unlock its full potential as a key player in the global energy market. However, realizing these benefits requires careful planning, strategic investments, and collaboration among stakeholders to address political, economic, and environmental challenges. With a commitment to sustainable development and inclusive growth, re-exporting Kurdish oil can contribute to the prosperity and stability of the region, paving the way for a brighter future for generations to come.

In Kurdistan region the Healthcare Services, Infrastructure and Facilities, Advancements and Innovations

Developing its Health sector over the years, aiming to provide accessible and quality healthcare services to its population.



By **Dr. Nojdar Akreyi**

The Kurdistan Region has made significant strides in developing its medical sector over the years, aiming to provide accessible and quality healthcare services to its population. Despite facing challenges such as resource constraints and regional instability, the region has witnessed remarkable advancements in infrastructure, human resources, and healthcare delivery. The current state of the medical sector in the Kurdistan Region, highlighting its achievements, challenges, and future prospects.

The Kurdistan Region has a long history of resilience and determination in the face of adversity, including periods of conflict and political instability. Despite these challenges, the region has prioritized the development of its healthcare infrastructure and services to meet the needs of its population.

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has invested significantly in building and upgrading healthcare facilities across the region. Modern hospitals, clinics, and specialized medical centers have been established in urban centers such as Erbil, Duhok, and Sulaymaniyah, equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment and technology.

The Kurdistan Region has made efforts to invest in the training and development of healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and technicians. Medical schools and training programs have been established to cultivate a skilled workforce capable of delivering quality healthcare services to the population. Access to healthcare services has improved significantly in the Kurdistan Region, with a focus on expanding primary healthcare coverage and outreach programs. Mobile clinics, telemedicine initiatives, and community health centers have been deployed to reach remote and underserved areas, ensuring that all residents have access to essential

medical care.

The Kurdistan Region has made strides in providing specialized medical services in areas such as oncology, cardiology, and orthopedics. Collaboration with international partners and medical institutions has facilitated knowledge exchange and capacity building, enabling the region to offer advanced treatments and procedures locally.

Despite its achievements, the medical sector in the Kurdistan Region faces challenges such as funding constraints, shortages of medical supplies, and gaps in healthcare infrastructure in rural areas. Addressing these challenges requires sustained investment, improved governance, and strategic planning to ensure the sustainability and resilience of the healthcare system.

The Kurdistan Region has made significant progress in developing its medical sector, providing accessible and quality healthcare services to its population. By continuing to invest in infrastructure, human resources, and technology, the region can overcome its challenges and build a healthcare system that meets the needs of its diverse population. With a commitment to innovation, collaboration, and excellence, the Kurdistan Region is poised to achieve even greater advancements in healthcare delivery in the years to come.

The medical sector in Iraq has faced a myriad of challenges over the years, ranging from conflict and instability to underinvestment and resource constraints. Despite these obstacles, dedicated healthcare professionals and policymakers have made strides in improving access to healthcare services and addressing the healthcare needs of the population. The current state of the medical sector in Iraq, highlighting both the challenges it faces and the advancements it has achieved.

The medical sector in



Iraq has a rich history, with contributions dating back to ancient Mesopotamia. However, decades of conflict, sanctions, and political instability have taken a toll on the country's healthcare infrastructure and human resources, leading to significant challenges in delivering quality healthcare to the population. The medical infrastructure in Iraq consists of hospitals, clinics, and primary healthcare centers spread across the country. While urban areas have relatively better-equipped facilities, rural and remote areas often lack essential services and medical personnel. The aftermath of years of conflict has left many healthcare facilities damaged or in need of repair.

Iraq faces a shortage of qualified medical professionals, including doctors, nurses, and specialists. Brain drain, low salaries, and security concerns have contributed to the exodus of skilled healthcare workers, exacerbating the shortage. Efforts to invest in medical education and training programs are underway to address this gap

and build a sustainable healthcare workforce. Access to healthcare services remains a challenge for many Iraqis, particularly those living in rural and marginalized communities. Financial barriers, lack of transportation, and cultural factors often hinder access to medical care. Initiatives to expand primary healthcare services and improve outreach programs are helping to bridge the gap and reach underserved populations.

Public health initiatives play a crucial role in preventing and controlling diseases in the Kurdistan Region. The region has implemented vaccination programs, disease surveillance systems, and health promotion campaigns to address public health challenges such as communicable diseases, maternal and child health, and non-communicable diseases. Community engagement and health education efforts raise awareness about preventive measures and promote healthy lifestyles among the population.

Iraq's healthcare system is primarily funded by the

government, supplemented by out-of-pocket payments and donor support. However, limited funding, corruption, and inefficiencies in resource allocation have hampered efforts to strengthen the healthcare system and improve service delivery. Greater investment in healthcare infrastructure, technology, and training is needed to address these challenges.

Despite the challenges, Iraq's medical sector has seen advancements and innovations in recent years. Telemedicine, electronic health records, and mobile health applications are being increasingly utilized to improve access to healthcare services and enhance patient care. Collaboration with international partners and organizations has also facilitated knowledge exchange and capacity building in key areas of healthcare delivery. The medical sector in Iraq continues to navigate a complex landscape marked by challenges and opportunities. While progress has been made in improving access to healthcare services and addressing the healthcare

needs of the population, much work remains to be done to build a resilient and sustainable healthcare system. By investing in infrastructure, human resources, and technology, Iraq can overcome the obstacles it faces and ensure that all its citizens have access to quality healthcare services.

The Kurdistan Region is committed to developing its medical sector to provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality healthcare services to its population. By investing in infrastructure, training healthcare professionals, improving quality of care, embracing technology, implementing public health initiatives, and fostering collaboration and partnerships, the region aims to achieve significant advancements in healthcare delivery and outcomes. With continued efforts and support from national and international stakeholders, the Kurdistan Region is poised to become a leading hub for healthcare excellence in the region.

Palngan's Thousand Def: A Vibrant Celebration of Kurdish Culture

Hawramabad's Spectacular Festival Draws Thousands to Palngan Village



Palngan village in East Kurdistan's Palngani district is buzzing with excitement as it hosts the Thousand Tambourine Festival for the second consecutive year. Over 100,000 visitors, hailing from southern and east-

ern Kurdistan, as well as other regions of Iran, have flocked to this picturesque town nestled in Kamyar city, Sanaa province.

Renowned for its geographical charm and unique housing style,

Palngan has long been a favored tourist spot. However, it is now gaining widespread recognition for its grand artistic celebration featuring a thousand Def (tambourines), originally famous for its distinctive Newroz

ceremonies.

The tambourine holds a special place in Kurdish culture, having been an integral part of religious rituals in Kurdistan's monasteries for centuries. Palngan village's rich cultural heritage

earned it a spot on UNESCO's list as part of the geography and culture of the Hawramabad region.

Directed by Parviz Rostami, the festival's highlight is a captivating music video showcasing the talents of local

drummers. Sponsored by Ava Media, the video captures the essence of Kurdish music, featuring five distinct tunes: Hay Allah, Daim, Khalili, Madahi, Haddadi Daf, and Da Hasht.

Daffodils: The Bright Harbingers of Kurdish New Year



Embracing Tradition and Symbolism: Daffodils Illuminate the Path to Kurdish New Year, Enriching Culture and Health with Their Vibrant Beauty and Medicinal Properties

Daffodils, also known as Nargis, are lovely flowers that bloom in spring. Their delicate white outer petals surround a vibrant yellow center. In early April, these cheerful blooms can be spotted in the valleys and cooler areas of Kurdistan. Daffodils grow from small underground tubers and stand at a medium height. Not only are they beautiful to look at, but their fragrance is also delightful.

These spring-flowering plants thrive in cold, hilly climates. With over 13,000 species across 50 families, daffodils come in various shapes and sizes, with blossoms reaching up to 15 cm tall. Their beauty and scent make them popular in marketplaces, often associated with the arrival of spring. In fact, the

name Narcissus, derived from Greek mythology, reflects the flower's allure, although it has ancient Kurdish roots as well.

Legend has it that Narcissus, a handsome youth in Greek mythology, fell in love with his own reflection and transformed into the flower after his death. The Greek word "narcosis," meaning insensitivity or weakness, is closely related to the name of the flower. Daffodils symbolize the end of winter and the beginning of Kurdish New Year, signifying rebirth and new beginnings.

Daffodils are also known for their medicinal properties. Their scent can relieve cold headaches, and inhaling their fragrance can ease cold symptoms. Daffodil juice is said to

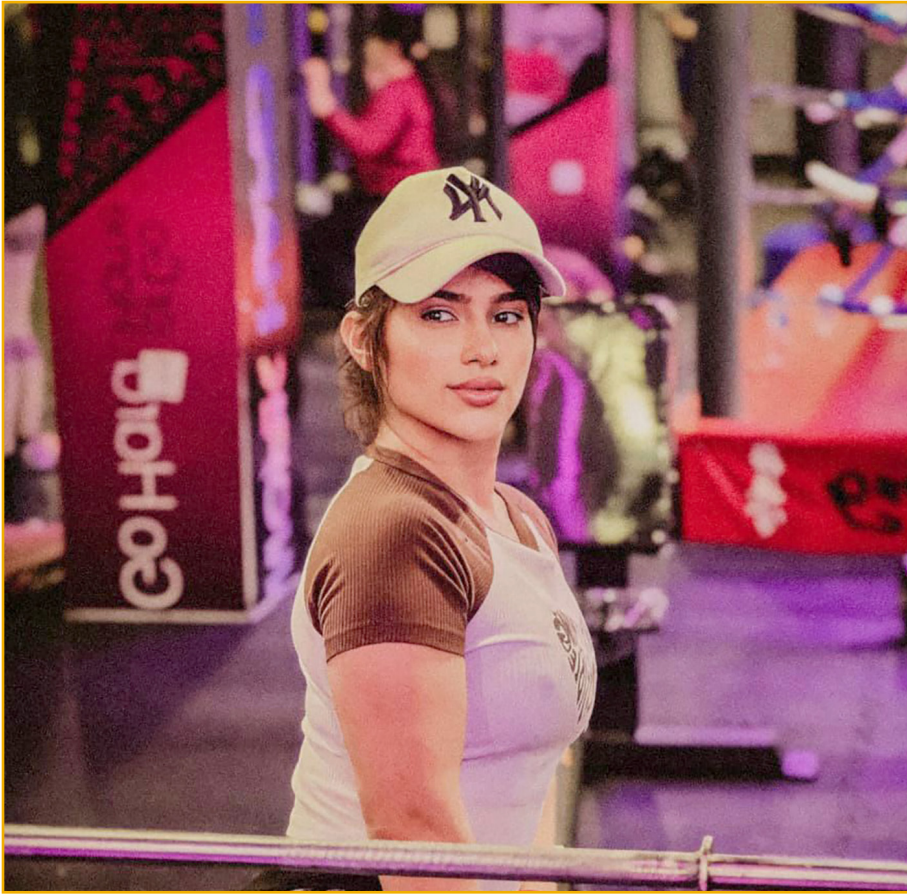
help prevent miscarriages and expel worms from the body. Additionally, applying daffodil juice mixed with honey can strengthen weak genitalia.

For joint pain relief, daffodil flowers can be boiled and used as a lubricant. They can also be dried and powdered for various remedies. Boiling daffodil flowers or leaves can treat asthma or promote hair growth, respectively.

As spring approaches, daffodils flood the markets, sought after by citizens eager to welcome the new season. These bright blooms not only mark the changing of seasons but also bring hope for a fresh start.

Women in Erbil Lead the Fitness Revolution

Breaking Barriers and Building Healthier Communities in Erbil's Expanding Gym Scene



As the understanding of the importance of physical activity grows, Erbil's gym scene is witnessing a remarkable transformation, with women at the forefront of this fitness revolution.

In recent years, there has been a noticeable surge in the number of women frequenting gyms across Erbil. From teenagers to seniors, women of all ages are prioritizing their health and well-being through regular exercise routines.

Coach Shaida Ahmed Mohammed, with over six years of experience in mentoring, particularly women, emphasized the significant shift in attitudes towards fitness among women in a recent interview with the Kurdish Globe. She noted, "It's inspiring to see more and more women joining gyms with specific health and fitness goals in mind.

Whether it's weight loss, muscle gain, or managing health conditions like diabetes or hypertension, women are recognizing the value of physical activity in improving their overall quality of life."

Coach Mohammed highlighted the pivotal role of gyms as alternative forms of treatment, particularly for women managing various health conditions. "Regardless of age, women are embracing the gym as a means to stay healthy and fit. Our programs cater to diverse needs, ensuring that every woman feels empowered to prioritize her well-being," she added.

The benefits of regular exercise, both physical and psychological, are undeniable. Coach Mohammed emphasized, "Exercise isn't just about looking good; it's about feeling good. I encourage every woman to prioritize

her health, enjoy life, and make fitness a part of her daily routine."

In Erbil's evolving fitness landscape, gender is no longer a barrier to participation. Men are increasingly supportive of their families' fitness journeys, recognizing the multitude of benefits associated with an active lifestyle.

As Coach Mohammed aptly stated, "Consistency, dedication, and commitment are the keys to success in fitness. I urge every woman, regardless of age, to embrace the gym and reap the rewards of a healthy, disease-free life."

With women leading the charge towards a healthier future, Erbil's expanding gym scene is breaking barriers and inspiring a new generation to prioritize their health and well-being.

Horse Riding: A Journey Through Time and Health Benefits

Exploring the Fascinating History and Wellness Advantages, From Ancient Nobility to Contemporary Riders

Horseback riding, an age-old sport cherished by royals and enthusiasts alike, stands as a pillar of athleticism and tradition. Originating around 3,500 BC, this noble pursuit has transcended epochs, evolving into a revered Olympic event and a testament to human-animal partnership.

History

From ancient civilizations to modern times, the symbiotic bond between humans and horses has shaped history. Initially a symbol of power and prestige, horses were the exclusive domain of the elite. However, since Christopher Columbus' expeditions, they've galloped into the hearts of people worldwide, becoming indispensable companions and athletes.

Equestrian Sports in the Olympics:

In 1990, equestrian sports earned their rightful place in the Olympic pantheon, showcasing the grace and prowess of horse and rider alike on the global stage. This inclusion not only celebrates athleticism but also fosters camaraderie and understanding among nations.

Horse Riding in Kurdistan

In the vibrant city of Erbil, the Sherko Horse Riding Club stands as a testament to the enduring appeal of this ancient sport. In a recent interview with Kurdish Globe, Sherko Mohammed, the club's proprietor, revealed a surge in interest, partic-

ularly among the younger populace. With over 100 riders of all ages and genders flocking daily, the club serves as a hub of physical and mental well-being.

Benefits of Riding:

Beyond the thrill of the ride, horseback riding offers a plethora of health benefits, from improving

cardiovascular health to enhancing balance and coordination. As riders navigate the scenic landscapes, they forge a profound mind-body connection, finding solace and joy in the rhythmic cadence of hooves.

Guidelines for Novices

For aspiring riders, adhering to safety protocols

is paramount. Under the guidance of experienced coaches, novices learn the art of saddle seating, foot positioning, and maintaining proper posture. By prioritizing safety and training, riders ensure a fulfilling and enjoyable experience for themselves and their equine partners.

In conclusion, horseback

riding transcends mere sport; it embodies a timeless bond between humanity and nature, fostering unity and resilience across cultures. As riders embark on their journey, they honor a tradition steeped in history while embracing the thrill of the unknown.





Folklore Spotlight



Tahir Tofiq

Tahir Tofiq, a renowned Kurdish musician and singer, left an enduring mark on the musical landscape of Iraqi Kurdistan. Born in 1922 in the lively city of Koya, his journey into the world of music began during his early years, where his passion for singing first emerged. Even as a young student, Tofiq's voice resonated with a rare quality that caught the attention of those around him.

As he grew, Tofiq's musical talents continued to blossom, finding expression not only in his schooling but also in the broader cultural fabric of Kurdish society. It was during his time at a Quran school that his vocal gifts truly began to shine, captivating listeners with his heartfelt renditions. The raw emotion and authenticity of his performances soon garnered him widespread acclaim, earning him a reputation as a gifted troubadour of Kurdish music.

However, Tofiq's significance extended far beyond his musical prowess alone. He emerged as a passionate advocate for Kurdish culture and identity, using his platform to shed light on the struggles and triumphs of the Kurdish people. Through his poignant lyrics and stirring melodies, he became a voice for the voiceless, articulating the hopes, dreams, and aspirations of a marginalized community.

Tofiq's repertoire of songs became anthems of resilience and defiance, speaking to the enduring spirit of the Kurdish people in the face of adversity. Tracks like "Dlaram - Asheq chawi bazi xomem, boye haz la rawi kaw dakam" and "Kras zerdê" resonated deeply with audiences, their themes of cultural pride and solidarity striking a chord with listeners across Kurdistan.

Beyond his musical contributions, Tofiq's legacy endures as a symbol of Kurdish cultural heritage and resilience. His unwavering commitment to preserving and celebrating Kurdish identity continues to inspire generations of Kurds, serving as a reminder of the power of music to unite and uplift communities.

Daff and Kurdish Nation

The Daff is a musical instrument that has a deep connection with the Kurdish human soul. We can say that the Daff expresses the feelings of the Kurdish people. Besides, it is widely used on religious occasions.

The importance of Daff

The music of nations shows their beliefs, living environment, and unique language format that tells their historical events. Attending the bed and descent of this magnificent song and playing the special musical instruments depicts heaven. Daf, brings the peculiar experience of attending local and original gatherings to the peak of its richness.

Daf is an ancient instrument that people play in various ceremonies since 800 BC.

The instrument comes from Safavid Sama assemblies in the monastery of Kurdistan. Daf has been a dervish's companion for 13 centuries. The sound will make you plunge into ecstasy. Daf is currently in the shape of a wooden circle with a ring around and animal skin on each side. Mohammad Reza Lotfi and Bijan Kamkar created the current model of Daff.

Hazhar Zahawi, one of the most talented Kurdish artists, said about the importance of the Daff: "

It gives a blessing, a type of excitement to the ritual," says musician Abdulqadir Sheikh Issa Barzinji of the rhythms he plays on his daf – the Kurdish frame drum. Music is related to human culture.

It varies from nation to nation and from geography to geography. Religion has a deep connection with the Daff."

Daff in Islam

Daff holds special importance because Muslims believe that it is the only musical instrument which is permitted to be used.

The meaning of the Daff

The Daff (Arabic: دف, English: Daff, Persian: دف) is a musical instrument made of thin skin attached to a circular stick, musical rhythm is produced by clapping and shaking.

People who play and use this musical instrument often get into the melodies and achieve a very high spiritual and beautiful aesthetic feeling, which is why the Daff is often played on religious occasions.

Daff in the world

In a world where even musical instruments are becoming extinct and forgotten, the Daff can still hold its own in some cultures. Conditions today, the Daff is still distinctly popular in many classical orchestras that have fallen slightly towards the oriental music side.

Design and worldview of the Daff

The daf has a simple design – animal skin stretched over a round frame studded with chains – but the way it is played makes it unique among frame drums.

The "circle" is the start of an enlarged point that accommodates the measurement of most sizes. It is a symbol of unity and avoidance of any kind of separation, a sign of the realization of all innovations in the construction of the universe, the rotation of the universe and change due to the rotation of every mov-

ing circle.

For these reasons, the circle is a symbol of time, a time that is constantly rotating in order.

The circle is a sign on the sky line, associated with theology.

History of the Daff

In ancient writings, God is like a circle whose center can begin anywhere.

Daff as a Kurdish national symbol

The circle is a symbol of femininity and femininity. The importance of the circle lies in its rotation, as after the invention of the wheel, the world took on a new appearance. The clock cycle passes smoothly without change.

The Daff circle is a symbol of joy and happiness. As in Kurdistan, Kurdish dance has its place in a circle. Sar-chopi and Gawan are symbols that can be linked to the emergence of tambourine rings.

The Daff ring is a symbol of life and education of the human circle, the philosophy of the rise and fall of sounds, the rise and fall of human life. The echo and relationship between the rings of the Daff indicates the strengthening of unity and harmony of power and rhythm among people.

The Kurds say: "A hand alone does not shoot", which also conveys the philosophy that in connection with the chain of rings on the Daff bow, a strong circle with a strong sound He points out that the combination of these sounds can play the rhythm of life.

The circle of the Daff refers to the sun and the rings are related to the sun's rays, which give heat and energy to the life of all creatures by

moving and playing.

History of the Daff in Kurdistan

The Middle East frame drum is one of the oldest musical instruments dated more than 3000 years (Doubleday 105). The oldest existing writing, one of the most valid references, is Psalms of the Prophet David, stated that praise him (God) with Daff and dancing (970-1010 BC). Moreover, there are many epigraphs around the world demonstrating the pictures of women playing frame drums more than men. The frame Daff has an interesting history covering three thousand years. It was used by nomads for making different sounds in order to hunt animals.

The daf, a framed drum with a simple yet powerful sound, holds deep cultural significance within Kurdish heritage.

Kurdish music and dance is a cultural aspect of the Kurdish nation that has been able to preserve part of its culture and history. For Kurds, singing and music are an important aspect of life and are sung during happiness, sorrow, worship, dance and work. Kurdish folk music has its origins in the distant past and the way it is sung confirms this fact. In fact, the shape and character of Kurdish folk songs is unique and does not resemble the songs of any of the surrounding nations. Each region has its own distinct style of singing, and the unity of their past origins is evident despite the distance between the regions and the differences in dialects

By Dr Majid Khalil

