

From the Heart of Kurdistan Region

# THE KURDISH GLOBE

The only English paper in Iraq - No: 416 Mon. October 21, 2013

## Masrour Barzani announces result of Erbil blasts investigation

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GLOBE PHOTO/Safin Hamid

Masrour Barzani, head of Kurdistan Security Council, speaks during a press conference regarding the Erbil blasts, which happened on September 29.

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# Common Development, Eradication of Violence



By **Gazi Hassan**

The Middle East has become a centre of violence; especially those groups who work under the name of radical Islamists have taken advantage of some basic factors in society for developing and widening their activities and transforming violence from belief to other fields of society and murder. Some of these factors are mainly economical, such as rise of poverty and unemployment rates, controlling the society by totalitarian regimes, absence of joint and common development opportunity within community classes and individuals, the failure of the national projects and the democratic political movements, the failure of Western and American project of transformation and establishing liberal and civil society, in addition to all of these, the strength of sectarian, tribal root and groups in society.

In Kurdistan, due to society's prosperity and development, and the suppression that has been underway for hundreds of years against Kurdistan society by states of Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran for oppressing Kurdish individual, contrary to other Islamic and Middle Eastern societies, the opportunity and works for heading toward democracy and liberating from totalitarian policy is further more. Kurdish society hasn't yet had any self-administration power to say it has failed in the national and democratic fields. The West and America, haven't dealt with establishment of a civil and liberal society in Kurdistan as an independent state and a different nation from states of Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran, in order to be said that people have negative reaction against them or head toward violence and the serious movement that works under the name of religion in the East. Kurdistan, contrary to all other areas of The East, is in a booming economic development. Poverty and unemployment rates are far less, compared to the Arab populated areas of Iraq, and other states of the region.

Therefore, for eradicating violence in all of its forms and directions, the common development will be one of the key factors, as the International Bank mentions. For that reason, it's of considerable importance and significance for Kurdistan Region to take care of common development in the upcoming years. More service projects to be presented in Duhok, the income and financial ability of Slemany province to be spent for prosperity of its areas. Economic, social, cultural progress projects to be equally and commonly developed in Germyan, Halabja, Raniya and Soran, which are four decentralized administrations and works are underway to become provinces after Bagdad government's approval.

Violence in all its directions is further in the areas which have witnessed less development. If we stare at Arab Spring, we feel that one of the aims of the revolution was creating oppor-

tunity for lower classes to live alongside with the middle class and share the development of society and the changes. Falling short of the changes and aims is perhaps one of the factors behind sparks of violence that have appeared rapidly and more effectively.

That's why it's vitally important in Kurdistan Region that works are done as a project and a strategic objective to create common opportunity, joint ground for development in all areas, so that people can step calmer and more actively forward. Then, social peace, cooperation and individual participation will be further in the development of the society.

In Kurdistan Region, violence have been imported from outside, the radical Islamist groups intend to resort violence through some prospective in this calm and progressing region. The first one is halting the national direction and the move towards the independence of Kurdistan Region. The second one is that Kurdistan Region is witnessing a fast development, which has been a factor of tranquility and security, and strengthening of economical and diplomatic ties with outer world. All of these will cause ideological, religious and political violation roots to weaken. On the contrary, democracy and liberalism is developing, the instance is the parliamentary election of September 19, 2013 in which more than 73% of people participated in the process, 32 lists and political blocs from various religion, nations and different colors participated in the elections. Social and economic development is stepping forward rapidly. On the contrary, in the Arab populated part of Iraq, unemployment, corruption, break up of society is on rapid rise and religious and sectarian violence and terrorist attacks are rapidly increasing. In Syria, the radical groups and violence between the government and the opposition has reached the most serious level. In Egypt, protests and demonstrations are underway. In Tunisia, people disapprove with Islamists' rule. In Libya, stability hasn't yet achieved. In Yemen, violence is still underway. In the Arab Gulf, sectarian issue hasn't yet resolved. In Turkey, the Kurdish question hasn't yet resolved and Iran is facing nuclear weapon crises with the international community, and other economic issue on the light of Western and American sanctions. Violence is underway in Afghanistan, and Pakistan is unstable. In Africa, the issues of radical Islamist groups were unable to be resolved.

But in Kurdistan, contrary to all of these, all people are seeking more happiness and tranquility. Kurdistan Region has become a positive point for economic and social development and coexistence. Hence, there has to be more effort to improve joint development for the sake of more security and stability.

# Electricity Smart System to be implemented

Official spokesperson of the Ministry of Electricity (MOE) of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Diyar Baban announced that the smart power meter project is going to be implemented in all the three provinces of Kurdistan Region starting immediately after the Eid al Adha holidays.

This is an effort to prevent the electricity waste and equality and charges on consumers.

Baban told a local Kurdish news agency that all the preparations of the project have been completed and his ministry is now ready to sign a contract with a private sector company to implement the project.

"According to the contract, smart power meters will be installed for 1.2 million electricity subscribers in all three provinces of the Region," Baban told the news agency. "There will be a central system at the Ministry's electricity control unit to control any issues in the system and identifying any breaches and misuses of electricity by the subscribers."

MOE Spokesperson stated that this system would have a strong and important impact on preventing waste and misuse of electricity in the region as well as a fair and equal basis on charging subscribers for electricity consumption.

# Deadly explosion hits Bartella

A car bomb hit Zuhoor Compound, a Kurdish inhabited area in Bartella, a town near Mosul City, leaving 15 deaths and more than 50 injuries, in the morning of Thursday, October 17th, the third day of Eid al Adha.

According to information announced by security authorities of Bartella, a truck loaded with explosives exploded in Zuhoor, targeting the Shabak Kurdish inhabitants of the compound.

A number of women and children were among the victims.

Health authorities stated that the situation of some of the injuries is serious and they are expecting the number of deaths to rise.

Bartella is a sub-district located approximately 20 kilometers east of Mosul. Bartella's population is mixed, majority being Assyrians, with some Kurds and Arabs as well.

# Thousands of villages lost their names to Turkification

Güven Kuzu, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Siirt, a town in the Turkey' Kurdistan, has announced the Turkish Democratization Package is an important first step towards solving some of the Turkey's issues, especially returning the original names to those villages and places whose names have been changed from Kurdish and Turkish in the past.

Kuzu has said that in an interview with Rojeva Kurd, a local Kurdish online news portal of Turkey's Kurdistan.

Kuzu says that due to the Turkification and Assimilation policies

of the previous Turkish rule, the names of 12,211 villages as well as 28 thousand other places and areas have been changed from their original Kurdish names to Turkish names.

"Now and 80 years later, it would be a source of happiness for everybody, and in particular for the locals of these villages and areas," said Kuzu. "This is why a vast majority of the local people of this area welcomes the democratization package and see it as a promising start for radical solution of the problems.

**KURDISH GLOBE**

Weekly paper printed in Erbil  
First published in 2005

www.kurdishGlobe.net

Address: Erbil, Massif road

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# Masrour Barzani announces result of Erbil blasts investigation



GLOBE PHOTO/Safin Hamid

At a press conference, Masrour Barzani, Head of the Kurdistan Security Council, has announced the result of investigations into the deadly September 29 bombing of the intelligence headquarters in Erbil, capital of the autonomous Kurdistan Region. The Director of Erbil's security office announced that his forces have arrested three people responsible for planning the attacks.

Barzani revealed that no local residents appear to have helped the terrorists carry out the bombing in Erbil.

Kurdish media outlets announced a few days ago that there were Kurds within the terrorist group, but Barzani rejected the

reports.

The recorded confessions of the three detainees were shown to the journalists who attended the press conference. Each one of the three was responsible for implementing part of the plan to blow up security headquarters. The terrorists bought a minibus and a car outside the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) administration to transport the suicide bombers and explosives to Erbil.

The three have confessed to being members of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and to being residents of Mosul.

Erbil is in a stable part of Iraq and the region has not witnessed an attack of this sort for six years.

The Director of Erbil's security office, Tariq Nouri, said that at least seven people had been reported killed and another 72 wounded in the September 29 bombings in Erbil, which targeted the headquarters of the security forces and the Ministry of the Interior.

Reports described a car bomber ramming a checkpoint outside a housing complex belonging to the Ministry of the Interior and a number of security agencies.

A short while later, as the emergency services arrived, another bomber struck in an ambulance rigged with explosives as gunmen attacked on foot.

By Salih Waladbagi

# Syrian refugees seek employment and education

Many of the hundreds of thousands of Syrians, mostly Kurds, who fled into the Kurdistan Region are now living in abandoned houses in the Region's capital and facing the prospect of unemployment and a lack of education.

The Region is still witnessing a rapidly increasing influx of refugees due to the internal conflict in Syria. To date, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and UNHCR have been able to provide adequate basic services, protection and assistance to the refugees.

Many camps in all three provinces of Duhok, Sulaimaniya and Erbil have been established for the refugees to live in.

Kawergosk, one of the camps set up in Erbil, now has over 2 400 tents sheltering 13 975 refugees in an open field. The roads within the camp, which is surrounded by a large circle fence, are not paved.

The refugees are provided with three meals a day and healthcare services. There is a hospital inside the camp where special physicians provide treatment and senior nurses are on call 24 hours a day. There is also a fire department ready to respond rapidly in case of danger.

The overall security in Kawergosk Camp is stable. The Kurdish Zeravani

security, the security forces of the Asayesh and the police continue to ensure security in the camp and surrounding areas.

Only 30 kilometers from Kawergos, the Dara Shakran camp contains 2 000 tents and 2 000 small homes equipped with a WC, kitchen and shower room. The camp, which shelters 10 000 refugees, is located in an open field and is surrounded by a fence.

In some camps, the KRG has provided Syrian refugees with different kinds of support, including in-camp services and primary schools, in order to keep the huge number of refugees under control. However, living conditions in some camps have yet to improve. Refugees in Dara Shakran lack both hospital facilities and a fire department.

It's morning in the Dara Shakran Camp. Dara Jaleel, a refugee from Syria, is trying to persuade the security guard to let him out of the camp.

«We go outside every morning with special permits and try to find a job. We are ready to do anything to earn some money and get away from the camp,» Jaleel says.

Although Jaleel is willing to do laboring and construction jobs, he does not find a job every day. «We get food, but food isn't the



GLOBE PHOTO/Safin Hamid

only thing we need. We sometimes need things that are not provided by the authorities and organizations, which is why we feel we need to work.»

Another refugee, Bewar Rasheed, 16, was a high school student back in Syria. He said, «I can't study here because everything is different. The whole system is different, and I'm not at all clear about my future. Hopefully, that

won't last forever.»

Raseed hopes the KRG will open high school in areas near the camps so the refugees will not have to go without education.

Despite the difficulties and lack of services, people like Jaleel and Rasheed still accept living conditions in the Kurdistan Region, which they consider to be better than living in Syria since their families are safe from the weapons

of war in the KRG.

The UN refugee agency estimates that some 63 000 Syrians have entered the Kurdish region of Iraq over the past two months, bringing the total number of refugees in the Region to at least 220 000. Most of them are ethnic Kurds.

The UN has predicted that almost a quarter of all Syrians will be forced to flee their country by the end of 2014 as a result of

the escalating civil war.

Some 3.2 million Syrians are expected to have registered as refugees by the end of 2013, with that figure rising to more than 5.2 million next year, according to a recent announcement by the UN agencies. In addition, some 6.5 million people could be internally displaced by the end of 2014.

By Zakaria Muhammed



# The Armenians of Zakho: a different type of refugee

The Kurdistan Region is known for coexistence and tolerance. Minorities live in the Region alongside the Kurds and practise their religious and cultural activities. The Armenians are a minorities who have been living in the Kurdistan Region for some 80 years. They mainly settled in Zakho and its surrounding villages. Members of Zakho's Armenian community talk about life in the city and express their appreciation to the Kurds for extending them their hospitality for so many years.

Yousif Garabet, a young Armenian in his twenties, received his BA degree from Zakho University this year. He speaks a charming Kurdish with a local Zakho accent, and you would only know about his Armenian origin if he chose to reveal it himself.

He says life in Zakho is going well, and that the community has a close relationship with the Kurds. It's because of this relationship that "all Armenians can speak Kurdish well," Yousif says. Another reason is that the older generation chose not to teach their children their native language.

Armenians have their own culture and traditions, but most of the community in Zakho, and the elderly especially, wear traditional Kurdish clothes. Young people like Yousif keep up with modern fashions, just like all the younger generation.

Yousif says Armenians, Kurds, Kildans and Assyrians have been living together peacefully for a long time in Zakho and that there is a lot of mutual respect between the communities.

Although the Armenians consider both Armenia and Kurdistan as their homeland, Yousif says Kurdistan has become our country. "That's why returning to Armenia is impossible," he says.

Most of the Armenians in Zakho live in the centre of town, near the banks of the Khabur River in a neighbourhood they call 'Kesta', but is also often called 'the Armenian Neighbourhood'. The



A View of Zakho City.

Kesta bazaar is called the Sika Dere by the local people, which means 'the Church market'. There is also a mosque a few hundred metres from the church.

The church the Armenians attend every Sunday was built in 1923, according to Father Artuk Khalatian, the Orthodox priest of the Church of the Virgin Mary in Zakho, told the Kurdish Globe. He says it was a school before it was renovated in 1936. The church is a meeting place as well as a religious institution, and people gather there in the evenings to talk about a variety of matters and drink tea.

"There is no difference between other Christian minorities regarding religious ceremonies" Fr. Artuk says. The only difference is the language—Armenians have their own language, which is mainly used during religious ceremonies in church.

According to unofficial sources, there are roughly

200 Armenian families in Zakho, 90 families in Avzrog Village, and another 60 in Zroog Mery (both villages are in Duhok province). A further 115 families live in the centre of Duhok. Due to threats from terrorist groups and instability in Iraq's southern provinces, more than 200 Armenian families have fled to the Kurdistan Region since 2003 and taken up residence in Erbil.

After the Armenian massacres that began in 1915, some Armenians fled to Kurdistan and Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. The Armenians in Zakho say the Kurds opened their doors to them and provided them with shelter. They say the Kurds and Armenians have shared the same suffering, which is why they live together peacefully.

"We've lived alongside the Kurds of Zakho for decades. They visit us at our feasts and we visit theirs. There is a tranquility and a sense of love between the Armenians

and Kurds here," Fr. Artuk comments, mentioning the favour the Kurds did the Armenians when they provided them with shelter in the nineteen twenties.

The relationship between the Armenians and Kurds has inspired singers and novelists. In *A Day From Evdale Zeynike's Days*, Mehmed Uzun, a Kurdish novelist, discusses the Armenian question. Aram Tigran, an Armenian singer, decided to sing only in Kurdish to repay the favour to the Kurds who sheltered his people in those dark times.

The Armenians who took shelter in Kurdistan became part of Kurdish society, which is how they learnt Kurdish so quickly. Now, the old people all speak Kurdish only.

In the areas where Armenians live, Armenian is taught in schools. The KRG has supplied an official curriculum to these schools so the new generation can learn their mother language.

Kurdistan's Armenians have one quota seat in the Kurdistan Parliament. During the recent parliamentary election, four Armenian candidates competed for the seat.

Vahram Hairek, a middle-aged Armenian man, recounts the tale of the Armenians' arrival in Zakho. Although he is too young to have lived these events himself, he has read widely and discussed the history with the elderly. He says there are still a few old people who remember the events, but they can no longer hear or speak.

Vahram says the majority of Zakho's Armenians are originally from Shirkak, a city in south-east Turkey. He says they sought an opportunity to flee to safer areas when they were prohibited from speaking their own language during the nineteen twenties, and chose Zakho and other areas around Duhok. "When the Armenians arrived in Kurdish areas, they were homeless, displaced and

fearful. Despite the fact the Ottomans were still in power in Iraq and the Middle East, the Kurds and their leaders sheltered us," he remarks. He counts to six on his fingers—the number of Armenian generations who have lived in the Kurdistan Region.

He says the Armenians moved into a number of professions, especially weaving, and made their living out of them. Many Armenians also work as teachers or civil servants, and others have stores in Zakho. "Kurdistan has become our country and we're not going anywhere else," Vahram says.

Zakho is a district in Iraqi Kurdistan located a few kilometres from the Iraqi-Turkish border in Duhok province. In addition to Kurds, minority groups including Assyrians, Kildans and Armenians live in the city and practise their religious and cultural activities.

By Shvan Goran – Duhok



## The Arab Spring: an optimistic start that has failed disastrously



By *Saadula Agrawi*

What happening in the Arab countries followed the Arab spring revolutions was really optimistic. But now it looks as though the Arab Spring revolutions may well join the long list of popular uprisings that have failed disastrously to live up to the idealistic, democratic aspirations of the activists that launched them and the optimistic reception their movements engendered around the world.

Political, economic and social change in the Arab world requires a regional strategy which emphasizes a number of basic principles including human rights, political representation, constitutional checks and balances, tolerance, the rule of law and women's rights.

US support for democracy in the Arab world marks a historic change and represents a unique challenge. If the new policy is implemented in ways that are superficial, half-hearted, underfunded and inconsistent, it will give rise to new allegations of hypocrisy and further damage relations between the United States and Arab populations.

The vision of the Egyptian people who launched their revolution for democracy in Egypt's squares has been hijacked, this time by military leaders out to save their revolution from Islamists.

US policy in the Arab world has been predicated largely on the notion that a political status quo in the region best served Washington's interests. With the assistance of Arab partners such as Egypt and the Gulf countries, the United States has achieved a remarkably good record in achieving its objectives—notably protecting the free flow of oil out of the Persian Gulf, ensuring Israel's security, confronting rogue states, battling terrorism and—during the Cold War—containing Soviet influence in the region. Yet the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington DC on September 11, 2001, challenged the underlying assumption of the US Middle East policy.

Islamist movements and political parties are likely to play a prominent role in a more democratic Middle East. The United States must remain vigilant in opposing terrorist organizations. That being said, it should not allow Middle Eastern leaders to use National security as an excuse to suppress violent Islamist organizations.

The Arabs have failed to build such a thing as a successful Muslim democracy. Is there any hope that the people of the Arab Middle East will one day enjoy true democracy, equality, respect for human rights, and freedom?

What started as a peaceful uprising against the Syrian dictatorship has turned into a civil war. More than a hundred thousand civilians have been killed, and another two million Syrians have fled the country. The democratic movement has been invaded by radical Islamists, including al Qaeda loyalists. The country is falling apart and could well end up as a failed state, run by warlords and split along sectarian lines. In Libya, Tunis, Bahrain and the other Arab countries, the situation is no better. There are serious problems everywhere, and no sign of democratic progress. But I do believe that the Arab Spring is over.

## New 51MW power plant to start operation

Bakhtiyar Ahmed Group of Companies, in cooperation with the Korean Hyundai Corporation are in the final stages of the establishment of Tasluja 51MW Power Plant, which is expected to start operating in a few days.

Bakhtiyar Ahmed, owner and CEO of the Bakhtiyar Ahmed Group, said all the works in the plant have been completed except some civil works that are planned to finish in the

few days to come.

"The plant will be ready to generate power in a very short future and it will feed its power into the national grid and distributed over the whole Kurdistan people.

Ahmed explained in an interview with a local Kurdish newspaper that the project was initially granted to the Hyundai Corporation in 2008, but Hyundai did not complete the project.

"We as Bakhtiyar Ahmed Group submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Electricity of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to complete the project with Honda Corporation," said Ahmed. "Fortunately the Ministry approved our proposal and now we are finishing the project, and it is almost complete except for very minor civil and construction works."

The plant uses crude oil

to generate power, which will have low operating cost on KRG.

Ahmed also asked the KRG to support them in supplying the required fuel so that they can generate maximum amount of power for the people of Kurdistan, which will also boost the industry an energy sectors of the region as well as creating a number of job opportunities for the local labor force.

## Iraqi Kurds OK Abu Dhabi's Taqa Plans to Pump Oil

Kurdistan-Turkey pipeline to complete by end of 2013

Kurdistan Regional Government authorities have given the green light to a consortium led by a United Arab Emirates state-run energy investment company to pump oil, a statement said Monday, in a latest move shows the Kurds' determination to pursue ambitious oil plans despite central government objections.

Kurdistan Region and the central government in Baghdad have been in a long-running dispute over rights to develop natural resources, with each side relying on a different interpretation of the constitution. Baghdad says it is the sole authority to negotiate and award deals, while Kurds argue that the constitution allows them to do so without going through the Federal Oil Ministry.

In its statement, Abu Dhabi National Energy Co., known as Taqa, said it plans to spend more than \$300 million in the first phase of a plan to pump about 30,000 barrels a day from the Atrush block by early 2015. The statement added that the second phase, yet to be approved, is expected to add another 30,000 barrels a day.

TAQA and its partners are also evaluating the feasibility of producing associated gas, a by-product of producing oil, for delivery to the domestic market.

The deal, which was signed in 2012, is one of scores the Kurds have signed unilaterally since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein and paved the way for broader Kurdish autonomy.

Taqa, which is majority owned by the oil-rich government of Abu Dhabi



A technician works in an oilfield in Iraqi Kurdistan Region. File Photo.

though more than a quarter of its shares are available to the public, holds 39.9 percent of the consortium. ShaMaran Petroleum Corp., a Kurdish oil company, has 20.1 percent, the U.S. Marathon Oil Corp. has a 15 percent share and Kurdistan has the remaining 25 percent.

Kurdish officials claim their region holds 45 billion barrels, though that figure cannot be confirmed independently. They plan to produce one million barrels per day by 2015 and two million barrels per day in 2019.

On the other hands and as an attempt to realize these targets, the KRG has reached an agreement with the Turkish Government to extend an oil pipeline directly from Kurdistan Region to Turkey, which would bypass the Iraqi central government in exporting Kurdish oil. Despite the outrage of the central government officials, Kurds have been insisting on pursuing the project, and the KRG Minister of Natural Resources Dr. Ashti Hawrami, said earlier this month that the

project is progressing very well and in a few months it will be ready to pump oil to Turkey.

"The new oil export pipeline from the Kurdistan Region is almost complete and is expected to be operational by the end of the year," Dr Hawrami said. "We are helping the security and continuity of energy supply to the world."

He added, <Sharing all oil revenues according to the federal constitution, and the economic independence of Kurdistan are the recipe for the unity of Iraq.>

The minister was speaking at a meeting addressing energy security, hosted by the KRG UK Representation. Other speakers were Nadhim Zahawi MP, Jane Kinninmont of the think tank Chatham House, analyst and consultant Shwan Zulal, and Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman, the KRG's High Representative to the UK. The meeting was chaired by Robert Halfon MP, vice-chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Kurdistan Region.

Dr Hawrami told an audience of Conservative Party members, diplomats, journalists, business representatives and analysts that Kurdistan Region's energy riches had been ignored or used against the Kurdish people under previous Iraqi governments. <With the liberation of Iraq, a new era, an opportunity for sharing power and wealth, opened up in Iraq. The Iraqi constitution facilitates that but so far it hasn't been implemented,> he said.

The minister also noted that the KRG sees Turkey not just as a conduit for Kurdistan's oil and gas to Western markets, but also as a consumer and partner. Dr Hawrami highlighted the role of British companies in the energy sector as well as in Kurdistan's growing economy generally. He encouraged British companies to continue to look at Kurdistan as a destination for their investment. <We have a good relationship with Britain and there are lots of opportunities for British companies. It's a win-win

PRESS PHOTO





رۆژێك بۆ هه مووان .... با رابكهين له پیناوی ناشتیدا یوم للجميع ... لنركض معا من أجل السلام

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25/10/2013

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# Iraqi officials angry over Gulf Cup leaving Basra

The football federations overseeing the Gulf have Cup moved next year's Cup from Basra to Saudi Arabia due to concerns over preparations and security

At a meeting at the InterContinental Regency Hotel in Manama last week, the presidents of the football federations of the six GCC nations plus Iraq and Yemen decided to move the Gulf Cup from Iraq to Saudi Arabia.

Another meeting is expected to be held in Saudi Arabia next month at which the secretary generals of the federations will decide on the official dates for the competition.

Incomplete infrastructure in Iraq, as well as a ban by football's governing body FIFA on the country hosting international matches due to security concerns, were the reasons given for the switch.

Basra was originally scheduled to host the 21st edition of the Gulf Cup, but the event was moved to Bahrain with Iraq being told it could host the 22nd edition of the Cup, if ready, in either December 2014 or January 2015.

The decision comes amidst Iraq's deadliest spike in violence since 2008. Basra was given extra time earlier this year to finish construction for the 2014 event, but the envoys meeting in Bahrain decided to move the competition on Tuesday.

The Gulf Cup, which started in 1970, brings together Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Yemen and the reigning champion the United Arab Emirates.

Following the decision, the Iraqi Ministry of Youth and Sport announced that «It has become manifestly clear that the reason for moving the tournament from Basra to Jeddah was political and taken under intense pressure from Saudi Arabia.»

«Saudi Arabia and others are



conspiring against Iraq and Iraqi sport behind closed doors.»

The statement went on to claim that Iraq had poured huge sums of money into preparing for the tournament, and that the Gulf States had agreed to hold the event in Basra in 2007, when the security situation was worse than now. They plan to lodge an official complaint and have appointed a lawyer to look into lifting the ban.

The Iraqi Prime Minister, Nuri al-Maliki, also weighed into the dispute, describing the tournament switch as «prejudiced against the rights of the Iraqi people» in a televised speech.

An Iraqi MP from the Fadhila bloc called upon the Executive and Legislative Authorities to

reveal the real reasons behind Iraq being deprived of the competition and it being transferred to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.

«The move has disappointed the people of Basra who were looking forward to hosting it in their province. There are clearly hidden political agendas behind the decision to transfer the championship, but we also should admit that the companies implementing the Basra sport city projects have been negligent,» she said.

She thinks the Iraqi Football Team has to take a stand against the decision by withdrawing from the competition—a move she thinks would preserve Iraq's dignity.

FIFA suspended Iraq from

hosting international matches in 2002, amending its decision in 2009 to allow certain matches to be played in the Kurdish capital city of Erbil, although the ban was later reinstated.

In March, FIFA said Iraq could play at home again, but with violence worsening as Sunni Islamist insurgents regained ground, they suspended permission again in July.

This has not stopped Iraqi teams enjoying much success in recent years, reaching the semi-finals of the Athens Olympic Games in 2004 and winning the Asian Cup in 2007.

By Zkaria Muhammed

## Three Arrested Over Terrorist Attacks

It is common knowledge that there have been terrorist bombings and attacks across Kurdistan over the last couple of weeks. Fortunately, the attacks have now ceased, although the terrorists involved had yet to be captured by the police.

However, three men allegedly involved in the terrorist attack in Erbil have now been arrested and confined. «We were able to arrest... terrorists who are directly linked to the terrorist operation that targeted Erbil,» Masrour Barzani told the Press

in Erbil.

The three men alleged to have been involved in the September 29 attack that resulted in the death of seven people and left at least sixty others injured are from the northern city of Mosul. Their names: Hashem Saleh Mohammed, Mohammed Khalil Qaddush, and Samir Bakr Yunis.

According to the chief of the Asayesh security forces, Tareq Nuri, the men brought two cars rigged with explosives from Kirkuk to Mosul. The same three

alleged terrorists also provided three other suicide bombers with weapons and explosives, causing still more devastation.

Thankfully, Messrs Mohammed, Quaddush and Yunis are now confined behind bars, though that does not mean the problems they have stirred up in Kurdistan have gone away.

Security has become tighter than usual as a result of the recent attacks, and traffic jams have increased drastically. While this may be aggravating in the short term, it will most

probably achieve its desired result: improved security. Still, this reporter thinks that what this country needs is not a heightened sense of false security, but rather a swift and subtle iron fist.

Overall, the measures have left us panicking rather than feeling safe, and the feelings of resentment are starting to flare at the edges. Let us hope they don't turn into a burning inferno that could eventually consume Kurdistan.

H.G. Hassan

### This Week in History

#### October 9, 1990

- Kurdish Famous writer and poet, Kakay Fallah, passed away in October 9, 1990.

- World Post Day marks the anniversary of the Universal Postal Union's establishment and is annually held on October 9. The union aimed to create and maintain a structure for the free flow of international mail around the world.

#### October 10, 1993

- Kurdistan Parliament passed the Political Party bill in October 10, 1993.

#### October 11, 2000

- Kurdish Cultural Festival was held in South Korea and Ribad Artistic team from Duhok participated in the event in October 11, 2000.

#### October 12, 1926

- The first issue of Kirkuk Newspaper was published in October 12, 1926.

- The Italian explorer, navigator, and colonizer, Christopher Columbus, discovered America in 12 October 1492.

#### October 13, 1792

- The foundation stone for White House in the United States of America was laid in October 13, 1792.

#### October 14, 1927

- The U.K. Army forces discovered gas in Baba Gur Gur field for the first time in October 14, 1927.

-Egyptian President, Mohammed Husni Mubarak received Kurdistan President, Masoud Barzani in Cairo in October 14, 2003.

#### October 15, 1931








-Italian armed forces hanged Libyan leader Omar Mukhtar in October 15, 1931.

-The first Iraqi Constitution, after toppling down Saddam Hussein, was voted in October 15, 2005.





# ERBIL WEATHER FORECAST

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						
29 11	29 12	30 12	29 11	30 13	30 14	34 15

## The 2nd Duhok International Film Festival begins

The 2nd Duhok International Film Festival will run from October 9-16 this year and feature participants from 40 countries. The opening ceremony was held with the support of the Prime Minister of the Kurdish Regional Government, Nechirvan Barzani, and in the presence of the President of the Duhok International Film Festival, Eyob Ramazan.

The Festival is very proud to present the latest films by renowned filmmakers including Michael Haneke, Abbas Kiarostami, Amat Escalante and Thomas Vinterberg which will be screened in Kurdistan for the first time. The international competition jury will be presided over by Bella Tarr, the celebrated Hungarian director

famous for his unique cinematic style. Two awards will be presented: the New Talent award for a first or second feature, and the Yilmiz Guney award for the best international film.

The Festival opened with *Before the Snow Fall*, a film by the Kurdish Norwegian director Hisham Zaman shot largely in the Bahdinan region. The film was shown on 9 October in the Duhok conference hall in Duhok. Mehmet Aktash, the artistic director said "We would like this festival to remind everybody of the cultural identity of this region, and hope it will serve as a bridge for peace and tolerance. Lehat Nehele, who attended the Festival, said he was very proud to see such a festival in the

Kurdistan region, and specially in Duhok. He was convinced the event would mark a major step forward in the field of cinema.

According to the President of the Duhok International Film Festival, Eyob Ramazan, the main goal of the Festival is to create a cultural identity for Duhok in particular and Kurdistan in general, and to pave the way for Kurdish films to find their way onto the international market. "We want the Festival to showcase the cultural identity of the region, so everybody who comes and participates in the event can perceive it as a place of development", Ramazan added.

By Hassan Shingali



PRESS PHOTO

The 2nd Duhok IFF celebrated its opening with a magnificent ceremony and screening of the feature film *BEFORE SNOWFALL* at the Kongireyan-Zankoya Hall of the City of Duhok.

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