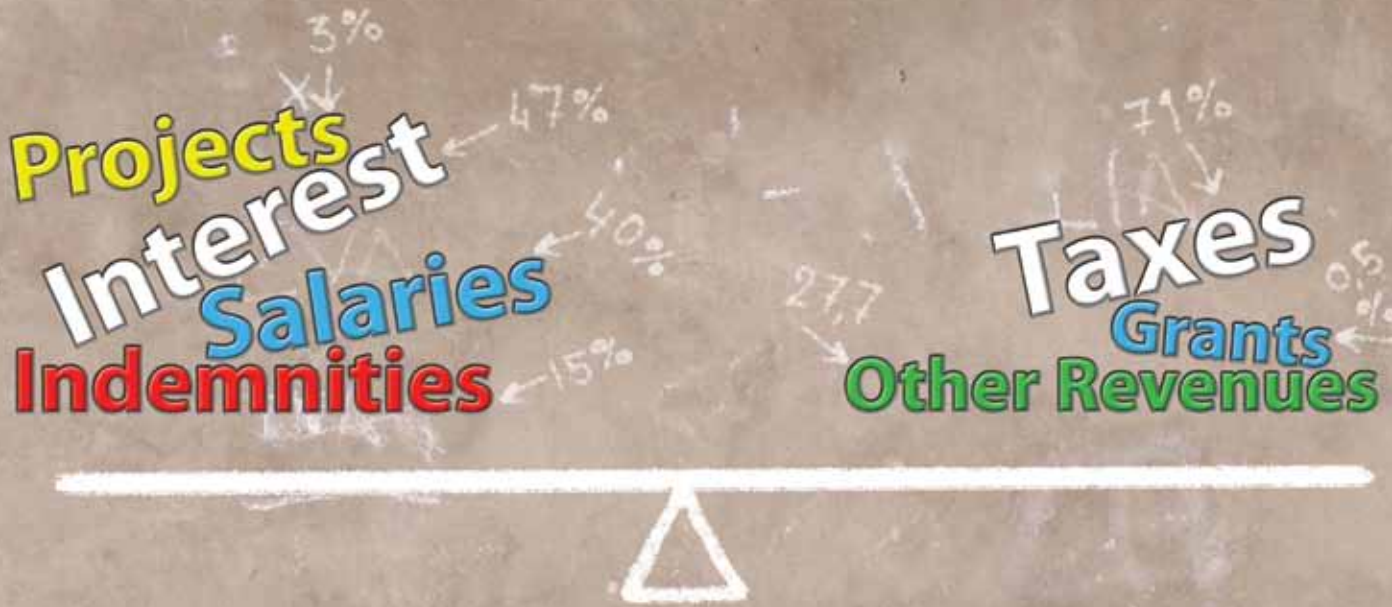


- ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC
- THE RÉGIE LIBANAISE DES TABACS ET TOMBACS
- THE MONTHLY INTERVIEWS MAYA EL-AMMAR

LEBANON WITHOUT A BUDGET SINCE 2005



4 **LEBANON WITHOUT A BUDGET SINCE 2005**

8 FIVE PRESIDENTIAL VACUUM PRECEDENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC

9 ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC

12 SALAM'S GOVERNMENT

16 THE ARRIVAL OF FOUAD CHEHAB TO POWER IN A SLOW COUP

18 THE RÉGIE LIBANAISE DES TABACS ET TOMBACS

20 ARAMOUN-BSALEEM POWER LINE

22 HASSAN SAAB

24 THE SWEDISH RIKSDAG

26 ACUTE DIARRHEA: DR. HANNA SAADAH

28 BABY SOFT SKIN – CELLULITE FREE: MAYA NAHHOUL

27 FRACTAL MATHEMATICS (3): ANTOINE BOUTROS

29 INTERVIEW: MAYA EL-AMMAR
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR AT KAFA

31 ACSAUVEL

33 POPULAR CULTURE

34 DEBUNKING MYTH#83: WAS CLEOPATRA TRULY BEAUTIFUL?

35 MUST-READ BOOKS: *A LIFE STORY: 37 YEARS AT THE IC*
NABIL RAHHAL

36 MUST-READ CHILDREN'S BOOK: *DIFFERENCE IS A MUST*

37 LEBANON FAMILIES: AL-JO'LOUK, AL-SO'LOUK
AND AL-BOHLOUL FAMILIES

38 DISCOVER LEBANON: HNAIDER

39 DISCOVER THE WORLD: MONTENEGRO

40 APRIL 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

44 THIS MONTH IN HISTORY- LEBANON
THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE



P: 29



P: 8



P: 18

46 THIS MONTH IN HISTORY- ARAB WORLD
INDEPENDENCE OF THE COMOROS

47 ON THE BELIEFS AND PLOTS
OF AL-QAEDA (4)
HOW TO RECRUIT JIHADISTS AGAINST ARAB AND
ISLAMIC STATES

49 REAL ESTATE PRICES- MAY 2014

50 DID YOU KNOW THAT?: SOCIAL MEDIA IN
NUMBERS

50 RAFIC HARIRI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TRAFFIC - APRIL 2014

51 LEBANON'S STATS



BAATH, ISIS AND FIFA

Things are not what they seem. The Baath party failed to fulfill its “eternal” objectives set out for the lands lying between the Atlantic Ocean and the Arabian Gulf. Da’esh (known as ISIS or ISIL- Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant/Syria- in Western media) is not laying the grounds for an Islamic Caliphate that would take us back to the days of Muawiyah, Omar or Andalusia, and FIFA is far from reviving football at grassroots level, in every corner of the world, as it is pretending to do.

Is it not heart breaking to see both Iraq and Syria in ruins? Is it not heart breaking that Egypt is incapable of quieting the rumbling stomachs of its over 90 million citizens? Is it not a tragic irony that the leftists and nationalists opposing Gulf countries are betting on a US-Iran rapprochement? Is it not also a tragic irony that the Gulf countries are lecturing us on democracy?

What we are seeing is, to put it mildly, surreal. Ridiculous. Tear-inducing. Tragic. Bloody. Devastating. A fatal, gloomy future. It makes one wonder about the reasons behind those smiley faces worn by Arab rulers in Damascus, Iraq, Tehran, Riyadh, Doha and Cairo, not to mention John Kerry’s proud smile in Baghdad. What could possibly be the reasons for these smiley faces? Baath, Da’esh and FIFA could be one of many.

Did we need Da’esh to reminisce on the unity of Iraq and the Levant? What were the Baathists in Damascus and Baghdad working for since 1970 until the US invasion of Iraq in 2003? Did we have to wait for Da’esh to remind and prove to us that the Fertile Crescent was predominantly rural and Bedouin? Did both Iraqi and Syrian regimes not appeal to “tribal leaders” when western threats were aimed at them? Tribal leaders and Baathism? After more than thirty years of absolute power? In fact, Iraq and the Levant are today worse off than they were in the days of Bani Othman. Our land has been ravaged but both rulers and Da’esh have been enriched.

As for FIFA, which proclaims itself a non-profit organization, its revenues are likely to surpass USD 4 billion this year. Today’s football does not compare with yesterday’s and sports are doing little to unite people and lift them up. Our basketball teams, Sagesse and Riyadhhi, best exemplified this in the championship-final, which was held without any fans attending the game to avoid a potential “sectarian mishap”. All this brings us down to the common denominator among Baath, Da’esh and FIFA: players amassing power and wealth in the absence of the concerned audience: we, the people.

Things are not what they seem to be and players are not what they pretend to be. Slogans are nothing but a cover for tyranny and money. And all three are simply pawns maneuvered by the puppet master to blind and divert the masses. Noam Chomsky warned that the world’s political and financial powers always seek to divert public attention from vital issues towards more thrilling yet futile ones. What matters though is us, not Baath nor Da’esh or FIFA.

Who are we? Why are we what we are? How do we lay the foundation for a better future? This is the essential and existential matter we are missing as we become more absorbed with Baathists fighting with Da’esh in Iraq, Baathists fighting against it in Syria and a football World Cup without even a team to represent us. Games and wars in which, the people, have no say.

— Jawsad N. Adra

LEBANON WITHOUT A BUDGET FOR THE NINTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Comparing Lebanon's state of affairs to those of other countries, one immediately realizes that Lebanon is an exceptional case, and possibly even an anomaly. The eccentricities that make Lebanon stand out from the rest are not our primary concern here, for the list is too long and would only cause distress and despair. Therefore, we will limit our discussion to one heterodox example: the country has had no budget for nine years. Despite the critical role of the general budget in regulating the affairs of the state and the function of its institutions, the last approval of Lebanon's general budget dates back to 2005. To the Lebanese, the budget has subsequently become a much sought-after dream.

General budget and approval dates

The general budget is the mainstay of any state, for it provides estimates of the revenues and expenditures as well as of the deficit and surplus rates and it crafts a general framework for the economic and financial policies. Given its importance, the devising and approval of the general budget have been assigned specific legal dates and deadlines in the Lebanese constitution.

According to Article 83 of the Lebanese Constitution, "...each year, at the beginning of the October session, the government shall submit to Parliament the general budget estimates of state expenditures and revenues for the following year. The draft budget shall be voted upon article by article."

Article 32 stipulates that "...the second parliamentary session shall open on the first Tuesday following October 15; its meetings shall be reserved to the discussion of and voting on the budget before any other work. This session lasts until the end of the year."

"If Parliament has not given a final decision on the draft budget estimates prior to the expiration of the session dedicated for budget examination, the President of the Republic, in coordination with the Prime Minister, shall immediately call the

legislature into an extraordinary session that shall last until the end of January in order to continue the discussion of the budget. If, at the end of the extraordinary session, the budget estimates have not been finally settled, the Cabinet may then make a decision, on the basis of which a decree is issued by the President of the Republic giving effect to the draft budget in the form in which it was submitted to Parliament. The Cabinet may not exercise this right unless the draft budget was put before Parliament at least 15 days before the commencement of its session. During the said extraordinary session, taxes, charges, duties, imposts and other kinds of revenues shall continue to be collected as before. The budget of the previous year shall be adopted as a basis. To this must be added the permanent supplementary credits and from it must be deducted the permanent credits which have been dropped. The government shall fix the expenditures for the month of January according to the twelfth provision rule," reads Article 86 of the Constitution.

From the above Articles, one may easily infer that the general budget is a fundamental task, highly prioritized by both the Cabinet and Parliament. Its approval before the beginning of each year is absolutely essential and any delay in passing the budget until after the end of January may jeopardize the state's financial performance.

Date of approval of the budget

Table 1 illustrates the dates on which the general budget was passed between 1943 and 2005. This period has seen the approval of 59 budgets as follows:

- Due to civil war and the consequent disruption of the state's efficiency following the division of political power between two governments, Lebanon had no budget between 1986 and 1989.
- Even under the most stable tenures, no budget was approved before the beginning of the fiscal year, which indicates levity in the tackling of financial matters.
- Of the total number of approved budgets, less than a half (26) were passed during the first two months of the year, in other words within the legal period. Those were approved in 1943, 1946, 1952, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1960 to 1970, 1972, 1976, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2003.
- 23 budgets were passed during the first half of the year. Those were in 1944, 1945, 1947 to 1951, 1954, 1956, 1959, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1977 to 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1997, 2001 and 2004.
- The approval of budgets in 1953, 1975, 1981, 1985, 1990 and 1991-seven in total- dragged on until the second half of the respective years.
- The budgets of 1992, 1993 and 2005 waited until the last month of the year or even the first of the year after to be ratified.
- During the post-Taif Accord period, between 1990 and 2013, the budget remained un-passed eight times. It was approved late four times, between the end of June and first of September. Three budgets were approved by the end of the year and nine budgets were not ratified until the first four months of the succeeding year. In short, most budgets (15) were either vetoed or passed after major delays.

General budgets between 1943 and 2005 Table 1

Year	Number and of date of issuance of the general budget law
1943	Legislative decree no. 325 dated February 23, 1943
1944	Law issued on June 7, 1944
1945	Law issued on June 5, 1945
1946	Law issued on February 4, 1946
1947	Law issued on March 19, 1947
1948	Law issued on April 5, 1948
1949	Law issued on March 28, 1949
1950	Law issued on March 28, 1950
1951	Law issued on March 20, 1951
1952	Law issued on February 5, 1952
1953	Legislative Decree no. 2910 dated November 4, 1953
1954	Law issued on May 7, 1954
1955	Law issued on February 26, 1955
1956	Law issued on March 10, 1956
1957	Legislative Decree no. 14877 dated February 5, 1957
1958	Legislative Decree no. 18551 dated February 4, 1958
1959	Legislative Decree no. 64 dated May 16, 1959
1960	Law issued on February 8, 1960
1961	Law issued on February 24, 1961
1962	Law issued on February 7, 1962
1963	Law issued on January 30, 1963
1964	Legislative Decree no. 15301 dated February 5, 1964
1965	Law no. 14 dated February 17, 1965
1966	Law no. 8 dated February 2, 1966
1967	Law issued on February 6, 1967
1968	Law no. 19 dated February 7, 1968

General budgets between 1943 and 2005		Table 1
Year	Number and of date of issuance of the general budget law	
1969	Law no. 10 dated February 26, 1969	
1970	Law no. 7 dated February 25, 1970	
1971	Law no. 36 dated May 5, 1971	
1972	Law no. 5 dated February 1, 1972	
1973	Law no. 12 dated March 2, 1973	
1974	Law no. 12 dated May 9, 1974	
1975	Law no. 32 dated August 28, 1975	
1976	Law issued on February 2, 1976	
1977	Legislative Decree no. 43 dated May 26, 1977	
1978	Law issued on May 2, 1978	
1979	Law issued on March 22, 1979	
1980	Law no. 4 dated April 7, 1980	
1981	Law no. 14 dated July 15, 1981	
1982	Law no. 17 dated March 18, 1982	
1983	Law no. 6 dated March 22, 1983	
1984	Law no. 1 dated June 13, 1984	
1985	Law no. 7 dated August 10, 1985	
1986	No Budget passed	
1987	No Budget passed	
1988	No Budget passed	
1989	No Budget passed	
1990	Law no. 14 dated August 20, 1990	
1991	Law no. 89 dated September 7, 1991	
1992	Law no. 172 dated December 2, 1992	
1993	Law no. 280 dated December 15, 1993	
1994	Law no. 286 dated February 12, 1994	

General budgets between 1943 and 2005		Table 1
Year	Number and of date of issuance of the general budget law	
1995	Law no. 409 dated February 7, 1995	
1996	Law no. 490 dated February 15, 1996	
1997	Law no. 622 dated March 7, 1997	
1998	Law no. 671 dated February 5, 1998	
1999	Law no. 107 dated July 23, 1999	
2000	Law no. 173 dated February 14, 2000	
2001	Law no. 326 dated June 28, 2001	
2002	Law no. 392 dated February 8, 2002	
2003	Law no. 497 dated January 30, 2003	
2004	Law no. 583 dated April 23, 2004	
2005	Law no. 715 dated February 3, 2006	

Source: General budget laws



Estimated deficit vs. actual deficit

The post-Taif Accord budgets (1993- 2013)- whether approved or not passed- have all failed to make accurate estimates of the revenues and expenses. Throughout this period, the income yield fell short of the estimates- except in 2004 and 2005- and the expenses far exceeded the forecasts, which translated into higher deficit rates than those projected initially. These steep discrepancies have downplayed the role of the budget, for although it is true that budgeting is a “guess work”, the estimates provided should closely match the reality, rather than be mere unrealistic figures. Table 2 illustrates the difference between estimates and actual figures.

Difference between estimates and actual figures (Amounts in LBP billion)								Table 2
Year	Estimated revenue	Actual revenue	Estimated expenses	Actual expenses	Estimated deficit	Actual deficit	Estimated deficit %	Actual deficit %
1993	1,701	1,392	3,400	2,096	1,699	704	49.9	33.5
1994	2,245	1,988	4,106	4,736	1,861	2,748	45.3	58
1995	3,150	2,482	5,630	5,354	2,480	2,872	44	53.6
1996	4,025	2,982	6,458	8,014	2,433	5,032	37.6	62.7
1997	4,100	3,356	6,433	8,602	2,333	5,246	36.2	61
1998	4,600	4,022	7,320	7,269	2,720	3,247	37.1	44.6
1999	4,990	4,546	8,395	8,503	3,405	3,956	40.5	46.5
2000	5,389	4,191	8,590	8,884	3,201	4,693	37.2	52.8
2001	4,900	4,259	9,900	8,212	5,000	3,953	50.5	48.1
2002	5,499	5,345	9,375	9,234	3,876	3,889	41.3	42.1
2003	6,470	6,180	8,600	9,435	2,130	3,255	24.7	34.5
2004	6,400	7,075	9,400	10,540	3,000	3,465	31.9	32.8
2005	6,917	7,405	10,000	10,203	3,083	2,798	30.8	27.4
2006	6,657	7,295	11,195	11,877	4,538	4,582	40.5	38.5
2007	7,675	8,749	11,840	12,587	4,165	3,838	35.1	30.5
2008	8,368	9,795	11,475	12,387	3,107	2,792	27	22.1
2009	11,389	12,036	16,304	17,167	4,915	4,462	30.1	26
2010	12,880	12,684	19,537	17,047	6,657	4,363	34	25.6
2011	14,361	14,070	19,826	17,600	5,465	3,530	27.6	20.1
2012	14,816	14,164	21,063	20,081	6,247	5,917	29.6	29.5
2013	14,208	14,201	23,008	20,563	8,800	6,362	38.2	30.9

Source: Estimated revenue and expenses according to general budget laws and actual revenue and expenses according to budget accounts laws until 2003. (No state budgets or accounts were approved between 2006 and 2013)

FIVE PRESIDENTIAL VACUUM PRECEDENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC

The term of office of the President of the Republic of Lebanon, Michel Suleiman, expired on May 24/25, 2014. Due to the failure of MPs to elect a successor to Suleiman, the presidential office is vacant. The vacuum is not the first of its kind, for Lebanon has seen four presidential vacuum precedents since the Independence in 1943 for different reasons and under different circumstances.

1. The first instance of presidential vacuum occurred after the resignation of President Bechara El-Khoury on September 18, 1952 and lasted until September 26, i.e. for 6 days.
2. The second instance occurred following the expiry of President Amin Gemayel's term on September 23, 1988 and the appointment of General Michel Aoun as the head of the interim government. Vacuum lasted for 410 days until November 5, 1989.
3. The third instance occurred after the assassination of President René Mouawad on November 22, 1989. The office remained vacant for only 2 days.
4. The fourth instance was after the expiry of President Emile Lahhoud's term on November 24, 2004 and the vacuum lasted until May 25, 2008, i.e. 180 days.
5. Today, after the departure of President Michel Suleiman, how long will the presidential office stay vacant?

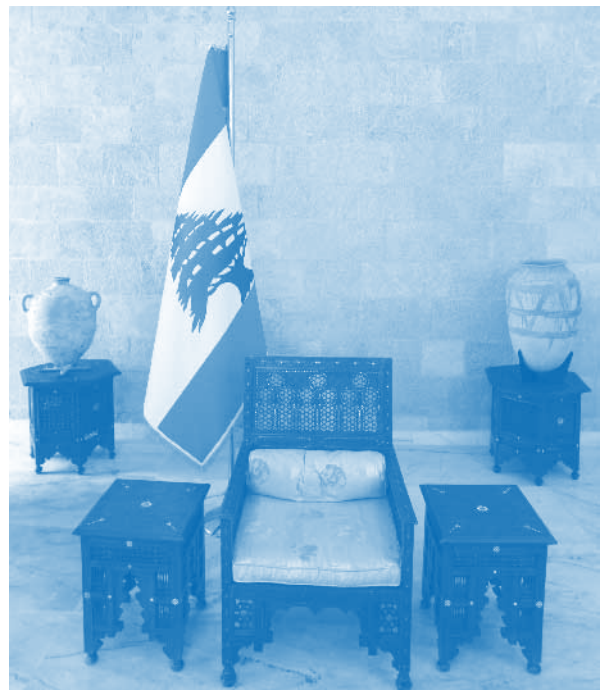
Government replaces the President

According to Article 62 of the Lebanese Constitution, "Should there be a vacancy in the Presidency for any reason whatsoever, the Cabinet shall exercise the powers of the President by delegation." In the most recent vacuum precedent, the government under Fouad Seniora assumed the authorities of the outgoing President Emile Lahoud in 2007.

The Cabinet sessions shall be deemed legal in the presence of two thirds of its members (as was the case

when the President was in office) and the decisions shall be taken by consensus, or shall be put to a vote when consensus is not reached. The decisions shall be taken by a majority of those present, i.e. a majority of two thirds of members. Some decisions require even the agreement of the two thirds.

Since the expiry of President Lahoud's term and the occurrence of vacuum on November 25, 2007, the Fouad Seniora government convened seven sessions and issued 1445 decrees starting by number 1, as is the usual decree numbering adopted with the beginning of every presidential term. ●



ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC

Twelve presidents have succeeded to office since Lebanon became independent in 1943. Each presidential election was governed by certain circumstances reflecting the date of the election, the number of voters and the number of voting rounds.

Date of the election session

According to Article 73 of the Lebanese Constitution, “One month at least or two months at most before the expiry of the term of office of the President of the Republic, Parliament shall convene upon the call of the Speaker to elect the new President of the Republic. However, should it not be convened for this purpose, Parliament shall meet automatically on the tenth day preceding the expiry of the President’s term of office.”

This Article was first amended on May 22, 1948, during the election of President Bechara El-Khoury for the second time, prescribing the holding of the election one month after the amendment of the Constitution. In 1976, it was amended anew and the new text stipulated that the presidential election should take place at least one month and at most six months prior to the expiry of the term of office of the existing President of the Republic. This has allowed for the election of President Elias Sarkis, four months before the expiry of his predecessor’s term.

The Presidents of the Republic of Lebanon and the date of their election				Table 1
President of the Republic	Date of election	Size of Parliament	Attending MPs	Voting rounds and no. of votes
Bechara El-Khoury	September 21, 1943, two days after the resignation of President Petro Trad	55	47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First round of voting: 44 votes / 3 blank ballots
	May 27, 1948, eighteen months before the expiry of his term of office	45	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First round of voting: 46 votes
Camille Chamoun	September 23, 1952 following the resignation of President Bechara El-Khoury on September 18. He took the oath during the same session.	77	76	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First round of voting: 74 votes for Camille Chamoun / a vote for Abdullah El-Haj / a blank ballot
Fouad Chehab	July 31, 1958, eight days after the beginning of the constitutional period.	66	56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First round of voting: 43 votes for Fouad Chehab/ 10 votes for Raymond Eddeh / 2 blank ballots / an invalid ballot Second round of voting: 48 votes for Fouad Chehab / 7 votes for Raymond Eddeh / a blank ballot.

The Presidents of the Republic of Lebanon and the date of their election

Table 1

President of the Republic	Date of election	Size of Parliament	Attending MPs	Voting rounds and no. of votes
Charles Helo	August 18, 1964, twenty seven days after the beginning of the constitutional period.	99	99	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First round of voting: 92 votes for Charles Helo / 5 votes for Pierre Gemayel / 2 blank ballots
Suleiman Frangieh	August 17, 1970, twenty six days after the beginning of the constitutional period.	99	99	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First round of voting: 45 votes for Elias Sarkis/ 38 votes for Suleiman Frangieh/ 10 votes for Pierre Gemayel / 5 votes for Jamil Lahoud/ 1 vote for Adnan Hakim Second round of voting: cancelled after 100 votes were cast Third round of voting: 50 votes for Suleiman Frangieh/49 votes for Elias Sarkis
Elias Sarkis	May 8, 1976 (the Constitution was amended and the date of election advanced)	99	69	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First round of voting: 63 votes for Elias Sarkis/ 5 blank ballots Second round of voting: 66 votes for Elias Sarkis/ 3 blank ballots
Bashir Gemayel	August 23, 1982, a month after the beginning of the constitutional period.	99 (92 still alive)	62	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First round of voting: 58 votes for Bashir Gemayel/ 1 vote for Raymond Eddeh/3 blank ballots Second round of voting: 57 votes for Bashir Gemayel/ 5 blank ballots
Amine Gemayel	September 21, 1982, two days before the end of the constitutional period	99	80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First round of voting: 77 votes for Amine Gemayel/ 3 blank ballots
René Mouawad	November 5, 1989	99 (72 still alive)	58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First round of voting: 35 votes for René Mouawad / 16 votes for George Saadeh/5 votes for Elias Hrawi Second round of voting: 52 votes for René Mouawad / 6 blank ballots
Elias Hrawi	November 24, 1989	99	52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First round of voting: 46 votes for Elias Hrawi / 1 vote for Edmont Rizk/4 blank ballots / 1 invalid ballot Second round of voting: 47 votes for Elias Hrawi / 5 blank ballots
Emile Lahhoud	October 15, 1998, twenty one days after the beginning of the constitutional period. The Constitution was amended on October 13, 1998	128	118	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First round of voting: all 118 votes for Lahhoud
Michel Suleiman	May 25, 2008	128	127	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First round of voting: 118 votes for Suleiman / 1 vote for each of Nassib Lahhoud, Rafic Hariri and Jean Oubeid/6 blank ballots

Source: Minutes of parliamentary proceedings

1. Since the law does not impose specific terms or mechanisms for nomination, MPs did not select a presidential candidate but only enshrined what has been agreed upon outside the Parliament and voted for the candidate that seemed to attract both regional and international consensus. This is why all MPs, or the majority of them, used to attend the Parliament's session except in two cases:

- In 1970 when the failure to agree over one candidate resulted in presidential competition between Suleiman Frangieh and Elias Sarkis. Frangieh won by one vote gaining 50 votes against 49 for Sarkis.
- In August 1982 when the quorum was not fulfilled until after hours of waiting during the election of Sheikh Bashir Gemayel.

2. The election occurred under normal conditions only five times. In the remaining eight times when Camille Chamoun, Fouad Chehab, Elias Sarkis, Bashir Gemayel, Amine Gemayel, René Mouawad, Elias Hrawi and Michel Suleiman were elected, the process was governed by unusual circumstances. ●



Bechara El-Khoury

September 21, 1943 - May 27, 1948



Camille Chamoun

September 23, 1952



Fouad Chehab

July 31, 1958



Charles Helo

August 18, 1964



Suleiman Frangieh

August 17, 1970



Elias Sarkis

May 8, 1976



Bashir Gemayel

August 23, 1982



Amine Gemayel

September 21, 1982



René Mouawad

November 5, 1989



Elias Hrawi

November 24, 1989



Emile Lahhoud

October 15, 1998



Michel Suleiman

May 25, 2008

SALAM'S GOVERNMENT:

40 GRADE 1 APPOINTMENTS COMPLETED WHILE 33 POSITIONS REMAIN VACANT

During seven sessions convened since its formation on February 15, 2014, the government of Tamam Salam has approved 40 appointments to the vacant Grade 1 posts leaving 33 vacancies unfilled. This task has been regarded as a significant achievement, especially since none of the previous governments was able to fill the administrative vacancies particularly in the highest civil service grade.

Partial Rotation

Notably, these appointments maintained the usual sectarian profile of each position, except for three posts where rotation between the Maronites, the Sunni and the Greek Orthodox was applied. The functions of the Directorate General of Personal Status at the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities, which were traditionally allocated to the Sunni, were handed over to the Maronite, while the Sunni were vested with the Directorate General for Local Administrations and Councils, a right that has been preserved for the Greek Orthodox. Instead, the latter was accorded the position of 'Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director General of the Traffic and Vehicle Management Authority' at the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities, which, according to established norms, previously belonged to the Maronite community.

Appointments by Salam's Government

The 40 appointments performed by Tamam Salam's government in Grade 1 posts were distributed by sect as follows:

- Sunni: 10 posts
- Shia'a: 7 posts
- Druze: 4 posts
- Maronite: 11 posts
- Greek Orthodox: 5 posts
- Greek Catholics: 1 post
- Armenians and minorities: 2 posts

Table 1 illustrates the sectarian distribution of posts and the names of appointees.

Appointments performed by Tamam Salam's government				Table 1
Post	Name of appointee	Sect	Date of appointment	Appointee's previous post
First Deputy Governor of Banque du Liban	Raed Hussein Sharafeddine	Shia'a	March 31, 2014	Same position
Second Deputy Governor of Banque du Liban	Saad Amine Endari	Druze	March 31, 2014	Same position
Third Deputy Governor of Banque du Liban	Mohammad Ahmad Baasiri	Sunni	March 31, 2014	Same position
Fourth Deputy Governor of Banque du Liban	Harout Samuelian	Armenian Orthodox	March 31, 2014	Same position

Appointments performed by Tamam Salam's government

Table 1

Post	Name of appointee	Sect	Date of appointment	Appointee's previous post
Public Prosecutor at the Court of Cassation	Samir Hammoud	Sunni	April 2, 2014	Acting Public Prosecutor
Director General of Internal Security Forces	Ibrahim Basbous	Sunni	April 2, 2014	Acting Director General
Director General of Political Affairs and the Displaced at the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities	Faten Ali Younes	Shia'a	April 2, 2014	First Auditor at the Audit Court
Director General of the Lebanese Standards Institution	Lana Youssef Dergham	Maronite	April 2, 2014	Head of Technical Department at the Lebanese Standards Institution
Governor of the South	Mansour Adeb Daou	Druze	April 2, 2014	Qaemaqam of Aley
Head of the Audit Court	Ahmad Hamdan	Shia'a	April 2, 2014	First Investigative Judge in Beqa'a
Health, Social and Agricultural Public Inspector at the Central Inspection	Habib Chafik Merhi	Maronite	April 2, 2014	Administrative Inspector at the Central Inspection.
Chairman and Director General of Electricité du Liban	Kamal Hayek	Maronite	April 2, 2014	Same position
Director General of the National Employment Office	Jean Abi Fadel	Maronite	April 2, 2014	Head of the Administrative and Financial Affairs Department at the National Employment Office
Director General for Cereals and Sugar Beets	Hannah Boulos Amil	Maronite	April 2, 2014	Head of the Cultural and Fine Arts Department at the Ministry of Culture
Head of the Civil Service Board	Fatima Youssef Sayegh Oueidat	Sunni	April 16, 2014	Advisor at the State Shura Council. She is delegated for this post for six years.
Governor of the North (following the resignation of Nassif Qaloush)	Ramzi Nohra	Greek Catholic	May 2, 2014	Advisor at the Audit Court
Governor of Baalbeck and Hermel	Bashir Nasr Khodr	Shia'a	May 2, 2014	
Governor of Mount Lebanon	Fouad Ahmad Fleifel	Sunni	May 2, 2014	Director of the Consumer Protection at the Directorate General of Economy and Trade
Governor of Akkar	Imad Maroun Al-Labaki	Minorities (Latin)	May 2, 2014	
Governor of Beirut	Ziad Elias Chebib	Greek Orthodox	May 2, 2014	Associate advisor at the Audit Court delegated for six years
Head of the Petroleum Administration	Aurore Youssef Fghali	Maronite	May 9, 2014	Head of the Network Studies Department at the Ministry of Telecommunications' Directorate General of Installation and Equipment

Appointments performed by Tamam Salam's government

Table 1

Post	Name of appointee	Sect	Date of appointment	Appointee's previous post
Director General of Economy	Alia Abbas	Shia'a	May 9, 2014	Head of the Directorate of Expenditures at the Ministry of Finance
Head of the Higher Council for Customs	Nizar Khalil	Sunni	May 9, 2014	Head of the Technical Affairs Division at the Presidency of the Republic
Director General of Customs	Chafik Emille Merhe	Maronite	May 9, 2014	First Customs Controller
Member of the Higher Council for Customs	Gaby Elias Fares	Maronite	May 9, 2014	First Customs Controller
Member of the Higher Council for Customs	Ahmad Mostafa Halabi	Sunni	May 9, 2014	First Customs Controller
General Inspector at the Central Inspection	Dalal Emille Barakat	Greek Orthodox	May 9, 2014	Head of the Department of Tenders
Head of the National Institute of Public Administration	Dr. George Labaki	Maronite	May 9, 2014	
Director General of the National Institute of Public Administration	Jamal Adli Al-Zaim Al-Mounjid	Sunni	May 9, 2014	Former Director General of the same Institute
Director General of the Ministry of Justice	Khairiyah Mayssam Abdul Qader Nuweri	Sunni	May 9, 2014	Judge
Head of the Central Fund for the Displaced	Nkoula Mikhael Al-Haber	Greek Orthodox	May 9, 2014	Retired Brigadier General
Director General of the Ministry of Labor	Youssef Abdullah Naous	Greek Orthodox	May 9, 2014	First Controller at the Civil Service Board
Head and Director General of Lebanon's Housing Institute	Rony Tanios Lahhoud	Maronite	May 9, 2014	
Secretary General of the National Council for Scientific Research	Moueen Haidar Hamzah	Shia'a	May 16, 2014	Same position
Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director General of the Public Authority for Consumer Markets	Yasser Suleiman Doubiane	Druze	May 16, 2014	
Director General of the Civil Servants' Cooperative	Yehya Shakib Khamis	Druze	May 16, 2014	
Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director General of the Rafik Hariri University Hospital	Faissal Mohammad Chatila	Sunni	May 16, 2014	
Director General of Personal Status	Syzanne Fayez Khoury	Maronite	May 22, 2014	Head of Registry at the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities
Director General of Local Administrations and Councils at the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities	Omar Hassan Hamzeh	Sunni	May 22, 2014	Public Prosecutor in the North
Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director General of the Traffic and Vehicle Management Authority' at the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities	Hoda Riad Salloum	Greek Orthodox	May 22, 2014	Inspector at the Engineering Inspection

Source: Decisions issued by the Cabinet

Vacancies

Of the Lebanese administration's Grade 1 posts, 33 are currently vacant, some of which have been unfilled for years. By sect, the vacancies are distributed as follows:

Sunni: 8 Posts

- Urban Planning Director General (2005)
- Head and director of OGERO (October 2005)
- Director General and Head of the Legal and Administrative Affairs at the Presidency of the Republic (September 2006)
- Member of the Council for South Lebanon (2006)
- President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction (The Council's tenure expired in 2009 and the President continues to assume his functions)
- Director General of Civil Aviation (December 2010)
- Director General of the Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (The IDAL's tenure expired in January 2009 and the Director General continues to hold his position)
- Head of the Higher Relief Committee (November 2013)

Druze: 2 Posts

- Director General of the Ministry of the Displaced (2002)
- Director General of the Committees and Sessions' Affairs in Parliament (April 2013)

Shia'a: 5 Posts

- Director General of the Ministry of Social Affairs (June 2005)
- Secretary General of Parliament (Although his tenure expired in 2005, he continues with his functions temporarily)
- Director General and Head of the Legal Affairs at the Prime Ministry (2007)
- Director General of the Economic and Social Council (April 2011)
- Vice President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction (The Council's tenure expired in 2009 and the Vice President continues to assume his functions)

Maronite: 5 Posts

- Director General of Antiquities (March 2010)
- Director General of the National Archives (April 2010)
- Vice President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction (January 2011)
- Director General of Cooperatives at the Ministry of Agriculture (2011)
- Director General of Real Estate Affairs (2013)

Greek Catholics: 5 Posts

- Head of the Economic and Social Council (since the expiry of the Council's tenure in 2008)
- Head of the Beirut Stock Exchange Committee (February 2009)
- Director General of Roads and Buildings at the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (November 2010)
- Director General of Télé Liban (2013)
- Director General of the Technical Affairs Division at the Presidency of the Republic (May 2014)

Greek Orthodox: 3 Posts

- Secretary General of the Council for Development and Reconstruction (The council's tenure expired at the end of 2009)
- Director General and Head of the Technical Affairs Division at the Prime Ministry (Vacant for years)
- General Inspector at the Central Inspection (Early 2012)

In addition to the above-mentioned vacant posts, five new posts have been introduced and we are yet to know to which sects they will be assigned. These posts are:

- Ombudsman
- Head of Liban Telecom
- Head of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (This post is likely to be passed down from the Evangelicals to the Maronite)
- Director General of the Economic Zone of Tripoli
- Director General of the Committee for the Creation and Management of Industrial Centers. ●

THE SLOW COUP:

THE RISE OF FOUAD CHEHAB TO POWER BY FOUAD AWAD

Following the article on General Fouad Chehab in *The Monthly's* issue no. 142, June 2014, our team has received a number of responses, most of which refer to *The Road to Power*, a book written by Captain Fouad Awad on his personal experience with General Chehab. The book, published in 1973, portrays an image very different from Chehab has been known for and stands at odds with what was published in the previous issue of *The Monthly*. For the sake of transparency, readers deserve to hear the different views represented on General Fouad Chehab.

“The Chehabi plan to gain power was not put on paper by the way of specific orders or studies as such and the man behind the plan disclosed it to no one except Colonel Antoun Saad, Colonel Youssef Chmait and Captain Henry Chehab.

Some of us, junior military men, used to obey commands blindly and wait for our salaries at the end of every month, heedless of what was going on around us. A few others were interested in public affairs because war, according to Clausewitz, is a continuation of politics by other means.

The Chehabi scheme was clearer to me than to any other officer in the army, save for Colonels Saad and Chmait and Captain Chehab, because I was the kind of person who looked into the ‘whys’ and tried to understand why things were the way they were.

The scheme was only perceived by those who analyzed the conduct of Major General Fouad Chehab who, for all his secrecy and undisclosed intentions, used to make revealing utterances and statements.

Fouad Chehab had been aspiring to presidency for a long time and our dispute with him was never over this aspiration but rather over the means he used in trying to fulfill it. He wanted to come to power as a savior, by the unanimous vote of Parliament and without soliciting votes from anyone. So he pitted rivals against each other to the point at which some, weary with the conflict, begged him to accept the presidency.

We, a category of officers chaired by myself, were afraid that his plan might lead to a sectarian civil war and to bloodshed among innocent people and troops. We urged him to resort to open military intervention only when there were attempts to amend the Constitution for renewal purposes and to prohibit the opposition from stirring up rioting.



In our opinion, a military intervention or a military coup d'état is only necessary when communities are stricken by intractable diseases that cannot be cured by the traditional ruling class. A coup is, more often than not, reflective of the wrath of a helpless majority against a tyrannical ruling minority. It is a rapid military operation whose executors aim to seize power as fast as possible and it should be carried out in a matter of hours, if not minutes.

If we analyze what Fouad Chehab had done between 1952 and 1958, we realize that he had practically pulled off a slow-moving military coup plotted in five years and executed in one.

Major General Chehab transforms the army into a state within the state

May 25, 1947 marked the date of the notorious parliamentary elections during which the opposition accused the army of partaking in an election fraud. Wishing to keep the accusations against him and the army at bay, Major General Fouad Chehab summoned

Rushdi Maalouf, a renowned journalist who used to teach Arabic at the Military Academy, to his office and asked him to write and publish a series of articles justifying the position of the army so as to acquit it from the allegations of fraud. Maalouf declined the request, which infuriated Fouad Chehab and drove him to terminate the agreement following which Maalouf had landed his high-paying teaching position, and replaced him with the gendarmerie's First Lieutenant Rizkallah.

This incident is proof of Fouad Chehab's ruling ambitions and his tendency to separate the army from civilian authorities and to make it a state within the state connected to him directly rather than to the executive branch in the country.

In the spring of 1953, the former Governor of Beirut, Mr. Bashour Al-Haddad, met General Fouad Chehab and asked him why he refused to lead the delegation assigned to attend the coronation of Queen Elizabeth. "I believe I am going to finish him off before he finishes me," he replied, for Fouad Chehab feared that President Camille Chamoun planned to isolate him from the army command while he was away at the coronation and this is why he refused to attend. It is said that the then US military attaché was bolstering the resolve of Fouad Chehab against President Camille Chamoun.

Political weapons

Equipping our small army with weaponry was our overriding concern. I have been receiving letters in this respect since 1955, i.e. since I arrived at the Army Staff. That year, we signed an agreement with France in order to purchase light weaponry. Although we fulfilled part of the cost, France refrained from handing us the weapons agreed upon under the pretense that the Near East situation did not allow it and that there was an agreement among western countries to ban the delivery of weapons to the area.

Western countries did not loosen up their fists until after the events of the Suez Canal events and weapons started to flow in from three sources: England, the US and France. This generosity was the result of Lebanon's position during the Suez Canal crisis and its decision not to cut off its diplomatic ties with the West.

Britain sent us a written letter offering 40 Charioteer tank destroyers, at LBP 15,000 each, although the real price is nowhere below LBP 500,000 per tank.

Fouad Chehab refused to pay and requested that the tanks be given to us for free. The exchange of telegrams between our ambassador to Britain, Ibrahim Al-Ahdab, and the relevant British ministry spanned more than two weeks. Later, Fouad Chehab dispatched Colonel Fouad Lahhoud to Britain to negotiate the possibility of obtaining the tanks without charge. Lahhoud informed us that the British reduced the price to LBP 3000 per tank, a pretty negligible amount given the qualities and the condition of the tanks. We had also received twenty-two tanks from the British at zero cost a few months earlier but the Army Commander still insisted not to pay a penny for the new ones. I asked Colonel Chmait why there was resolve to obtain the tanks for free at a time when the price of all forty tanks would not exceed LBP 200,000 and he answered "because we do not want Colonel Fouad Lahhoud to receive the money." And when I asked Colonel Chmait how could Colonel Fouad Lahhoud be the one getting paid when the British Ministry of Supply was the one requesting payment, he explained: "The Ministry of Supply will receive the payment and then pass it on to Colonel Fouad Lahhoud to strengthen his weight in Lebanon at our own expense."

However, when Fouad Chehab wished to reinforce his own influence, he relied on France to equip the army with weaponry and bought arms in a deal worth LBP 5 million that was paid by installments over five years at LBP 1 million per year. These weapons included, among others, 20 AMX tanks, each at LBP 150,000. While Fouad Chehab was inspecting the new French equipment, I opined in front of him that the British Charioteer tank was better and had a bigger gun and a stronger engine. He fired angrily at me saying: "Why don't you go and study its characteristics all over again. It seems that you have forgotten your profession. You are basically an armor officer."

Of course, I knew about all the technical and military characteristics of each tank, and I knew them well, but I must have ignored the political characteristics, and that is what must have enraged our leader."

Awad concludes his book saying "had the Chehabi terrorism been in the interest of change and development of Lebanon's society and institutions, we would have forgiven Chehab his terrorism. But after 12 years of suppression of freedoms, we ended up with a government branded by the United States as primitive and unfit to rule." ●

THE RÉGIE LIBANAISE DES TABACS ET TOMBACS

REVENUES EXCEEDING USD 200 MILLION

At the forefront of those few Lebanese institutions and administrations that bring in exorbitant revenues to the state treasury is the Régie Libanaise des Tabacs et Tombacs with transfers in excess of USD 200 million annually.



Establishment of the Régie

Tobacco first appeared in Lebanon in 1590 when the bodyguard of Prince Fakhreddine came back from Tuscany and brought it with him. When tobacco production began in Lebanon, the Ottoman Empire decided to form a tobacco monopoly in 1884. The concession to invest in this industry for 30 years (later extended by another 15 years) was given to a French company, which was granted the right to determine the area of tobacco cultivation and to regulate its production and sales. After the First World War, all concessions were cancelled and the French authority which had gained a mandate over Lebanon set April 14, 1929 as a date for the expiry and liquidation of the tobacco concession.

Later, the French mandate reactivated the previous monopoly system pursuant to Decision no. 16 L.R., which monopolized the purchasing and production of tobacco starting March 1, 1935. Subsequently, a decision was issued on February 19, 1935, designating the tobacco monopoly holders in Lebanon and Syria. Those included:

- The Syrian-Lebanese Tobacco Company
- Othman Sharabati in Damascus
- Hannah Qasouq and Bros in Beirut
- S. Sawaba and Sons in Beirut
- Mouneeb Soukkari in Damascus

Decision no. 170 L.R. dated July 16, 1935 was later issued approving the decision to establish what was then named the Anonymous Régie Society of Common Lebanese and Syrian Interest, which consisted of the aforementioned parties with a capital worth 1,250,000 Syrio-Lebanese lira.

Pursuant to Legislative Decree no. 151 dated June 12, 1959 the Lebanese Régie of Tobacco was placed under State control. The exclusivity awarded expired on December 31, 1961 but was subsequently extended until January 1, 1975.

However, it was not until 1991 that the State recovered the monopoly and an interim committee was assigned to administer the sector. The Régie thus became a state-run institution under the Ministry of Finance, which oversees its activities.

Board of Directors

The Régie is run by a Board of Directors chaired by Nassif Seqlawi (Shia'a) who also acts as Director General. Like all public institutions and administrations in Lebanon, the board consists of members representing the major sectarian communities in the country. These are George Hobeika, Issam Salman, Mahmoud Sanjakdar and Mazen Abboud.

Revenues

The total revenue received by the Régie Libanaise des Tabacs et Tombacs from 1994 to 2013 totaled USD 5,398 billion, of which USD 1,415 billion were spent on tobacco crop subsidies, salaries and overheads. The remaining USD 3,983 billion were transferred to the State treasury, breaking down into an average of USD 200 million in revenue every year.

It is noteworthy that the tobacco revenues have soared significantly in the past few years, jumping

from USD 230 million in 2007 to USD 482 million then to USD 565 million in 2011 and 2013 respectively.

Staff

The staffing structure assigned to the Régie initially consisted of 1,746 jobs. However, casual employment contracts pushed the number of employees up to 3,500 by 1980. The number then decreased gradually until it had reached 2,156 in 1993 and 621 in 2013. The size of the workforce has been reduced recently to 677 posts.

The Régie's revenue growth reflects the institution's name and function as a state-run monopoly having the exclusive right to import tobacco. Subsequently, its revenue is mostly yielded from import duties and tobacco taxes and this revenue goes to the State treasury after deducting the subsidy earmarked for tobacco farmers. ●



ARAMOUN-BSALEEM POWER LINE: NEVER-ENDING SAGA

“Residents of Mansourieh- Ain Saadeh took to the streets and blocked the road in the presence of activists and MPs in protest at the high-voltage power lines which pose a threat to their safety and expose their children to cancer.” This news has been receiving frequent coverage since 2004. However, in the past few years, the event has gone beyond the health and technical bounds, taking on political dimensions. Opponents of the Free Patriotic Movement stood against the installation of the power lines, although the project was begun before FPM member, Gibran Bassil, took office as Minister of Energy and Water. It is alleged that the FPM had also challenged the project before the party came to power. So what is the story behind these power lines and what are the solutions, if any?

The Beginning

The story goes back to 1998 when the Lebanese government devised an electricity plan, which was partly predicated on reducing the load of network traffic and the technical errors of transmission and practicing network control in a manner that ensured linking production plants to demand centers. The installation of a 220 kV power line to transmit electricity to Beirut and Mount Lebanon was part of the plan. To this end, the Council for Development and Reconstruction entered into a contract with an Egyptian company, ELEJECT, to carry out the works starting on February 25, 2011 and ending on May 25, 2011. ELEJECT is represented in Lebanon by PROMELEC, which is run by an engineer and former Director General of EDL, George Mouawad. The line to be installed does not exceed in length 2 kilometers.

Residents’ Objections to the works

The residents objected to the installation under the pretext that the power line would jeopardize public health and cause cancer, a risk that was earlier negated by a French electrical company. The political intervention and the support of both the Phalanges and the Lebanese Forces enflamed the protest actions and halted the planned works. The Internal Security Forces could not coerce the protesters into compliance nor force the implementation of the project. The residents’ objections to the works were based on the following arguments:

- The expropriation of near-by properties for the execution of works is an unacceptable move that would induce displacement.
- Underground cables in conformity with the latest and safest technical standards must replace overhead power lines.
- Expropriations, excavations and power pylons must all be cancelled.

Government Decision

Against an unwavering popular objection, the Cabinet issued Decision No. 40 on January 25, 2012 stipulating the following:

- Delegating the appraisal of the apartments located within the zone where the power lines still need to pass in the Mansourieh-Ain Najem area to the Ministry of Finance and referring the appraisals to the Higher Relief Committee so as to pay property owners who are willing to sell.
- Requesting the Council of Development and Reconstruction to resume works by February 13, 2012.
- Ordering the Internal Security Forces to attend to the execution of the works and to seek the assistance of the Lebanese Army if and when needed.

- Requesting the Ministry of Finance to submit recommendations regarding the financial outcome regarding those apartments that the state has expropriated.

Cost of the Apartments

It surmised there are 58 apartments that may be involved with the power lines. According to Électricité de France, these are 10 meters away and thus are technically unaffected by the electromagnetic radiations. There were three price levels that were proposed for purchasing the apartments:

- Lowest level at USD 14.4 million
- Medium level at USD 15.5 million
- Highest level at USD 16.9 million

The Ministry deemed that the residents' call for the installation of underground cables to be costly and unscientific, arguing that it could lead to similar demands from other Lebanese towns, which would entail huge expenditure.

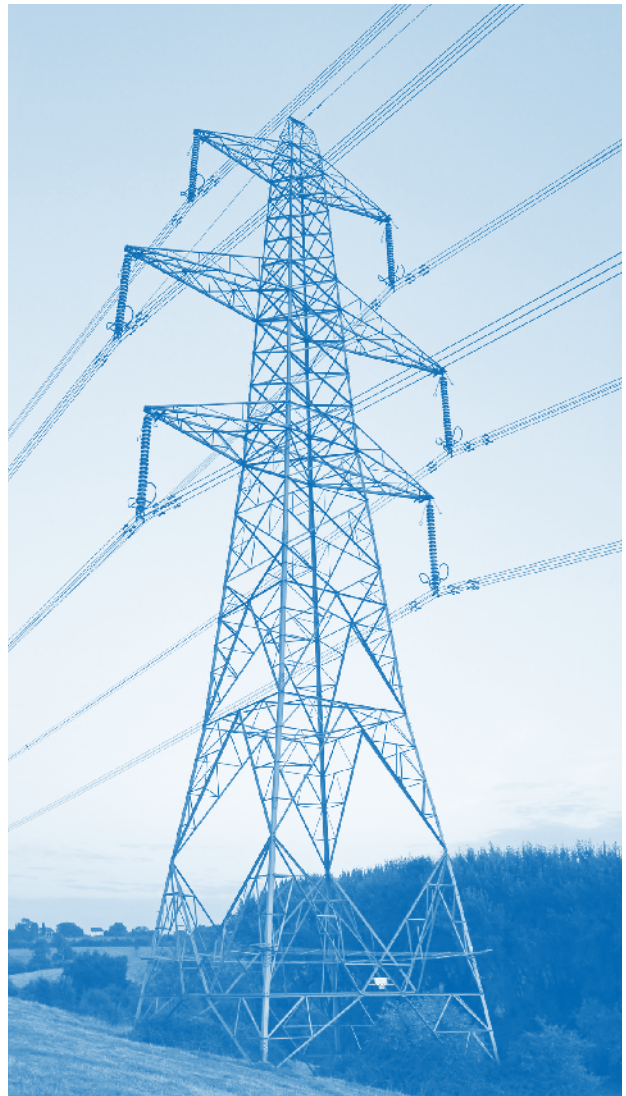
Demands of the Company

Besides the cost of purchasing the apartments, the company undertaking the works is also raising a number of demands about its inability to operate. As a matter of fact, ELEJECT is requesting indemnities worth USD 1,235,330 distributed as follows:

- A compensation of USD 5000 for every day of delay in receiving the sites starting from the date of signing the contract (February 25, 2011) until June 30, 2011. The compensation for total delays would thus jump to USD 630,000.
- A compensation of USD 2,200- after agreement to lower it from USD 5000- for every day of delay between July 1, 2011 and November 30, 2011, meaning a total of USD 336,600.
- A monthly compensation worth USD 18,000 for the period between December 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012, i.e. a total of USD 126,000.
- A bill for evacuating the site worth USD 142,730.

Despite the years since the initiation of the project, the completion of the Aramoun-Bsaleem power line has not been possible and remains a source of rift and political dispute. The residents refuse to have

the lines installed in their towns either for political considerations or for health reasons, which have been invalidated by the Ministry of Energy and Water and Électricité de France. Conversely, the Ministry refuses to bury the lines underground due to several reasons including the impossibility of having this serve as the model for all Lebanese towns. It is hence offering property owners a financial remuneration in exchange for evacuating their apartments. Meantime, the contracting company claims compensation for the disruption of its works. A classic depiction of the situation in Lebanon at large! Considerable attention has been given to the Aramoun-Bsaleem power-line, while dozens of high-voltage power lines passing above houses remain forgotten and no discussions are held to gauge the risks they might impose. ●



HASSAN SAAB

THE DREAM OF DEVELOPMENT

“A leading mind and a pioneer of revival, credited with launching a national movement grounded on science, armed with culture and keen on keeping up with the times to resurrect Lebanon after it almost became a dying country.”

These lofty words with which the head of the Lebanese Press Federation, Mohammad Baalbaki, described Hassan Saab during a celebration held in October 2013 to commemorate the 91st anniversary of his birth, echo the personal affection that Baalbaki held for his friend. This month, on the 24th anniversary of his death, Hassan Saab also deserves to be remembered.

Birth and Upbringing

Dr. Hassan Saab was born on October 15, 1922 in Beirut and was named after his father who had died before he was born. He grew up as an orphan in dismal living conditions, but, armed with his unquenchable thirst for knowledge, Saab was able to overcome all hurdles facing him and chart a successful path for himself. In 1941, the Mufti of Beirut, Mohammad Toufic Khaled, chose him together with a group of young men including the late Mufti Hassan Khaled and the head of the Lebanese Press Federation, Mohammad Baalbaki, to move to Egypt and pursue their Islamic studies and become clerics. In Cairo, Saab dropped religious studies and turned to civics.

Education

In 1945, Hassan Saab obtained his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Cairo. From there, he moved to France where he studied law for one year before completing his Ph.D. in Political Science at Georgetown University in Washington.

Career

While still a student, Hassan Saab delved into professional life and passed in 1944 the entrance examination to the diplomatic career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants. He assumed different positions at the Ministry's central administration in



Hassan Saab

Beirut as well as in numerous embassies abroad. He served as the acting Chargé d'affaires at the embassy of Lebanon in Washington between 1950 and 1956 and as member of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations General Assembly in 1959.

He taught at several universities, both in Lebanon and abroad, and between 1972 and 1978 chaired the Lebanese University Faculty of Media and Documentation. In 1990, he became lecturer at the American University of Beirut, after he had failed to enroll at the university as student a few decades before.

Works

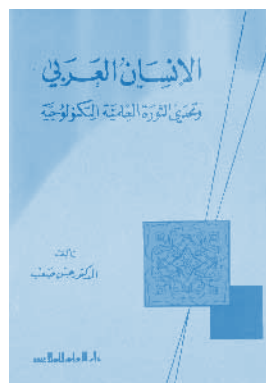
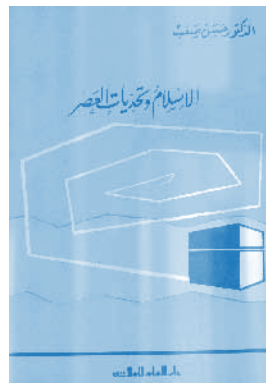
Hassan Saab wrote dozens of books and translated many others. He is also the author of hundreds of articles and studies. Most prominent among his works are:

- ***The Modernization of the Arab Mind:*** In the introduction to the book, which was published in 1969, it is stated that “the modernization of the Arab mind is our primary civilizational concern, for it is upon which that our sound confrontation of all other crucial issues is contingent. It is our mind that will determine our destiny and we have every confidence that the Arab mind is predisposed to every progress. This is why we want it to enter modernization by its front door. Although modernization is not necessarily synonymous of progress, it has now become a prerequisite for any better progress. The main requirements of modernization are human freedom, scientific experimentation, rational organization and intellectual creativity. These requirements are insufficient, yet remain pivotal for any actual progress and the Arab mind has got to embrace them as it aspires to catch up with recent modernization and to surpass it towards even better Arab and human modernization”.
- ***Islam and the Challenges of the Era:*** In this book, Saad urged a perpetual interpretational revolution in Islam, opining that the real democracy is an embodiment of the spiritual values of Islam. On Islam he said: “As for Islam, it is my inherent instinct and destiny. It is not my identity, for it resides in my spirit and the spirit has no identity. As the Holy Qura’an has taught me, the spirit is of the command of my Lord. It transcends all identities because it connects me to God and to my fellow human beings.
- ***The Arab Diplomat: A State Representative or a Letter Bearer***
- ***Politics***
- ***‘Yes’ for the Lebanon of the Mind, ‘No’ for the Lebanon of Violence***
- ***The Modern Definition of a Statesman***
- ***The Islam of Freedom, not of Slavery***

Achievements

In 1958, Hassan Saab laid the cornerstone of the Lebanese Association of Political Sciences. Later in 1964, he established the Symposium for Development Studies and chaired it until his death in 1990. In the wake of the June 1967 defeat, he founded the National Mobilization Authority and was involved in several scientific and intellectual associations at both national and international levels. Saab had an active role in the inclusion of Lebanon in the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization.

Hassan Saab married Naamat Ghandour, holder of a doctoral degree in Library Science, and had two children with her, Hassan and Marwan. “We were born to live this life, for it, alone, deserves to be lived. I want to be. I want to live. I want to move. I want to create,” those were the final words Hassan Saab wrote before he passed away on July 25, 1990. ●



THE SWEDISH RIKSDAG

349 DEPUTIES, HALF OF WHOM ARE WOMEN

Parliament of the Kingdom of Sweden is known as the Riksdag. What sets the Riksdag apart from other parliaments worldwide is the large proportion of women among its members. As a matter of fact, female deputies account roughly for half the Swedish legislature's members at 45%. This high percentage puts Sweden fourth on the list of parliaments having the highest female representation worldwide after Rwanda (63.6%), Andorra (50%) and Cuba (49%).



The Swedish Riksdag

Voting and candidacy age

The law establishes a voting age of 18 in Sweden. To run as candidate, one must also be at least 18 years of age. Sweden allows those Swedes who live abroad (roughly 133,000) to participate in the elections.

Number of MPs and term of office

The Swedish Riksdag consists of 349 MPs elected by direct vote for a four-year term.

Voting system

Sweden's general elections are held on the third Sunday in September of the year the term expires. Voters are allowed to vote by post 18 days before the date of the elections and candidates must be listed on the electoral lists presented by parties.

Sweden adopts a party-list proportional representation system in 29 electoral constituencies allotted 310 seats. The remaining 39 seats known as the 'adjustment seats' are allocated to parties to

ensure the best possible representation. Adjustment seats are distributed at the constituency level based on the total number of votes polled by a qualifying party in constituencies where it has not obtained any permanent seats. A minimum of 4% of the national vote is required for a party to enter the Riksdag, alternatively 12% or more within a constituency.

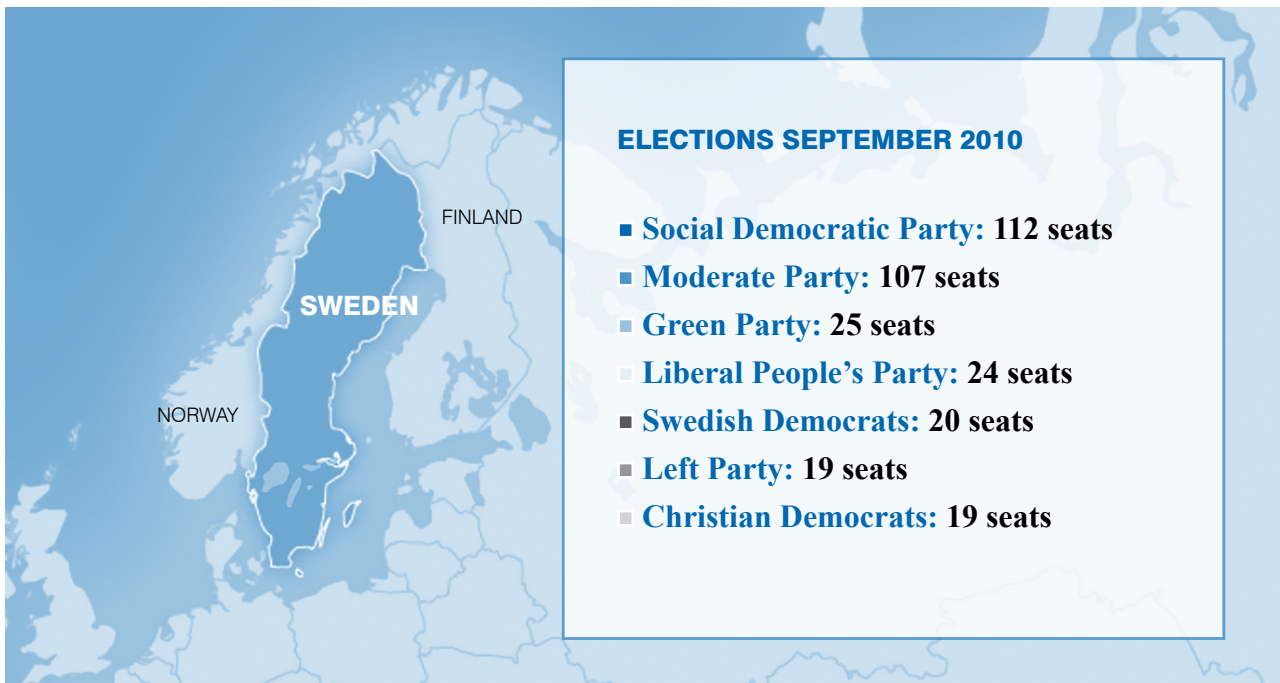
Since 1998, voters have been given the choice to either vote for a party or for a preferential candidate on a party list. The preferential candidate should obtain at least 8% of the votes that his or her party amassed in the respective electoral constituency.

Structure of Parliament

Registered voters totaled 7,123,651 in the general elections held on September 19, 2010. Of those, 84.6% or 6,028,682 turned out for the elections. The Social Democratic Party ranked first among

the 8 winning parties and the results broke down as follows:

- **Social Democratic Party:** 112 seats, down from 130 in the previous elections held on September 17, 2006.
- **Moderate Party:** 107 seats, up from 97 in 2006
- **Green Party:** 25 seats, up from 19 in 2006
- **Liberal People's Party:** 24 seats, down from 28
- **Swedish Democrats:** 20 seats (this was the party's first electoral run)
- **Left Party:** 19 seats, down from 22
- **Christian Democrats:** 19 seats, down from 24 ●





Dr. Hanna Saadah

ACUTE DIARRHEA

Acute infectious diarrhea, with and without vomiting, affects millions of adults and children each year and is responsible for a high number of deaths, especially in children and in the elderly. In the USA alone, 179 million cases of acute diarrhea occur annually. 83% of the deaths caused by diarrhea occur in adults 65 years or older. Hospital associated infectious diarrhea caused by *Clostridium difficile* yields the highest fatality rate among the older adults, followed by the noroviruses which can be equally deadly, especially in frail individuals.

Over all, the commonest cause of acute diarrheas are the noroviruses, which cause 50% of all diarrhea outbreaks, especially onboard of ships, nursing homes, hospitals, and dormitories. Serious bacterial infections caused by salmonella, campylobacter, shigella, E coli, vibrio, yersinia, listeria, etc., account for only a minority of diarrheas cases since most occurrences of diarrheas in traveling adults do not have identifiable causes.

Food-borne infections secondary to contaminated food items are responsible for 36% of all acute cases of diarrheas. Fresh fruits and vegetables, especially leafy vegetables, are the commonest carriers because they are easily contaminated and difficult to decontaminate. Contaminated poultry is responsible for the highest proportion of deaths because of serious salmonella and listeria infections, which are often associated with contaminated chicken.

Host defenses, which normally protect us from infectious diarrhea, include stomach acid, normal intestinal bacterial flora, and gastrointestinal immunity. When these defenses are weakened either by natural disease or by medications, more cases of diarrheas can occur. Hence, medicines, which reduce stomach acidity, and antibiotics, which disturb the natural bacterial flora, make us more susceptible to diarrheas. Also, extremes of age, autoimmune diseases, inflammatory gastrointestinal disorders, and immune suppressive medicines are associated with more cases of diarrheas.

The inoculum effect is crucial to understanding the infectivity of diarrhea. Organisms, which can overcome the host's defenses and cause diarrhea in small numbers (i.e., <100 to 500 organisms) are considered low inoculum (i.e., high virulence) organisms. Of these, noroviruses are the commonest representative, followed by rotaviruses, shigella and others. Clinically, this means that person-to-person transmission through contaminated hands and surfaces is likely because visibly clean hands and surfaces can still carry enough organisms to cause infection. Hence, observing strict hygiene of hands and of the surfaces which come in contact with hands such as toilet seats, door and faucet handles, non-disposable towels, kitchen and table utensils, etc., is necessary for curbing the spread of diarrhea.

In contrast to low inoculum (i.e., high virulence) organisms, infection with moderate inoculum organisms (i.e., moderate virulence) such as salmonella and

campylobacter requires 1000 to 100,000 organisms to be ingested. Infection with high inoculum organisms (i.e., low virulence) such as E coli and vibrio requires > 100,000 organisms to be ingested. The higher number of organisms needed to cause infection renders person to person transmission more difficult because such large amounts of organisms are not usually present on visibly clean hands and surfaces. For that reason, such large infecting doses are more commonly found in foods, which have been left for long enough period of time at room temperature for the bacteria to multiply and reach such high numbers.

Most acute diarrheas are self-limited and tend to resolve in a few days without medical intervention. Unless the infection is clinically severe, a 24-hour observation period is wise. If after 24 hours, the symptoms begin to improve, it is advisable to avoid antibiotics and continue to temper the symptoms with hydration and, when necessary, with Imodium and Metamucil, both of which are available over the counter. Imodium, which slows the bowel motility and Metamucil, which improves the stool consistency, should be used according to the labeled instructions. If vomiting is present, prescription anti-nausea medicines may be required. Continuous oral re-hydration is crucial, but must be taken in frequent small sips to avoid reactive vomiting or reactive diarrhea. Electrolyte rich fluids such as Pedialyte, or home made soups can maintain the fluid balance while the illness improves. Probiotics are not helpful. Seeking prompt medical advice when home remedies do not help is very important.

The incubation period, which is the time from ingesting contaminated food until diarrhea occurs, can be a helpful guide. When the incubation period is short, (i.e. 2 to 7 hours), and when vomiting is predominant, then food poisoning with preformed toxin is the likely cause. When the incubation period is 14 to 48 hours and vomiting accompanies diarrhea, then viral gastroenteritis is the likely cause.

When the diarrhea is prolonged or severe, or when it is associated with abdominal pain, high fever, and bloody, purulent stools, medical attention is necessary. Obtaining stool cultures, stool microscopy, and stool toxin studies, is usually reserved for such severe cases. Short courses of oral antibiotics, (i.e. 3 to 5 days), are commonly used if the diarrhea continues after 24 hours, and intravenous rehydration and IV antibiotics are usually given when the illness is too severe to manage outside the hospital. ●

BABY SOFT SKIN – CELLULITE FREE

Maya Nahhoul



Soon it is summer time, we will start trying on our summer clothes and surprise, all we see is our legs, thighs, buttocks and CELLULITE!

Do not worry, you will not miss the beach nor that cute little black dress you can't wait to wear. All you need is 5 minutes per day and your cellulite will be in the past. Sounds expensive? Well, not at all! You just need to go to your kitchen, open the pantry and you will be able to prepare the best **CELLULITE BUSTING BODY SCRUB!**

Cellulite is a term used for uneven fat deposits under the skin that cause it to have a dimpled "orange peel" appearance. Cellulite is a common and harmless condition that affects about 90% of women over the age of 30.

It affects both men and woman, regardless whether they are obese or slim.

Cellulite mainly affects women because biologically, stored fat is needed to give females energy to help them through pregnancy and breastfeeding. For women there is almost the inevitability of developing cellulite but the less body fat you have the less likely you are to have cellulite

Ingredients to prepare the body scrub: Good only for one use –prepare every time you want to use it (for two weeks)

- ¼ cup raw sugar
- ¼ cup ground coffee
- 5 tbsp olive oil
- 3 tbsp almond oil
- 1 tbsp sea salt (coarse salt)

Blend all ingredients together to form a paste and apply on targeted areas for 5 to 10 minutes while massaging your body in a circular movement after washing your body.

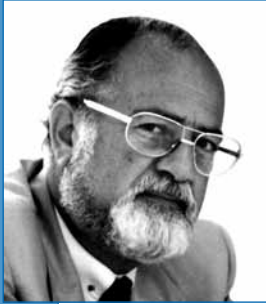
Sugar and salt exfoliate the skin and remove all dead cells and dirt thus allowing for better absorption of vitamins and minerals contained in oils to make the skin softer and hydrated. Coffee grounds are high in antioxidant which prevents heart disease and help fighting cancer, and they also fight free radicals which can damage the skin resulting in wrinkles and age marks.

Not only does this scrub smell like a fresh cup of coffee, but the caffeine in the coffee can and will reduce the appearance of cellulite. It's a win-win! You will see visible improvement within 2 weeks.

Other tips to fight cellulite include:

- Drinking plenty of water – aim to have 8 to 10 glasses / day especially during summer season
- Eat foods rich in CLA (conjugated linoleic acid) which is found in eggs, meat and skimmed milk
- Eat fruits especially grapefruit, oranges and all citrus fruits which improve blood circulation leading to less cellulite
- Drink green tea – it accelerates the metabolism allowing you to burn more fat (aim for 2 to 3 cups per day to have these benefits)
- Eat broccoli – it inhibits cellulite from forming by protecting the collagen in your skin
- Try to squeeze in some physical activity – at least 30 minutes per day, three times a week ●





Antoine Boutros

FRACTAL MATHEMATICS (3)

Traditional mathematics is unable to answer many simple questions such as the future of the speed and motion of a child's swing. What is, for instance, the average speed at which the swing will move and how many times per hour will it rise at least one meter from the ground? The computer, on the other hand, can study this matter by simulation and by calculating the speed of each rotation. However, the slight inaccuracy involved in each calculation piles up and soon after, the simulation of this simple example becomes in need of a supercomputer capable of amending the friction, the force and the timing to realize what is going on.

In order to draw the fractal forms that facilitate seeing the transition from order to chaos, one needs three aids. Conversely, drawing a circle or a square requires only one: length. This is why these shapes are simple while fractals are complex. The three aids necessary to draw fractals are: the length, which is doubled each time the height of the figure is doubled and the dimension 'B', the most important and imagination-triggering aid which stands somewhere between 1 and 2 and controls the relative numbers determining the curves

Fractal geometry governs the relative size of both small and large structures. A natural scenario generated by computer graphics can be of a dimension varying between 2 and 3. If it were closer to 2, the figure would comprise a large mass with small gaps. If it were closer to 3, it would then include several medium-sized hills and a few large ones, if any were to be included at all. In other terms, the symbol (B) is the fractal dimension, which differs clearly from the traditional concept measuring dimensions. Going back to what we had mentioned about phase space, the traditional concept of dimension manifests itself plainly to us and we can sum it up by the coordinate or the different coordinates necessary to determine the position of a point in the space. On a straight line, we need one coordinate. On a natural scene or surface, two are needed. But when it comes to fractals, the dimension has several determinations and therefore different numerical values.

The third aid required to draw fractals is the 'seed' or the coincidence factor, in the sense of random variable. In order to understand the role of this aid, we need a coin and a white paper. We start by selecting a point anywhere on the page and then we draw ourselves two bases. Assume that the coin has two distinct sides: heads and tails. If the coin is flipped with its heads side

facing up, the point moves 2 centimeters to the north-east of the page. When it lands on its tails position, we move 25% to the center. Then we continue to flip the coin and move the pen on the paper according to what each side of it dictates. This method is applied on a computer to develop a coincidence factor in the direction of the figure. Although the nature works in an even more complex manner, the computer program is supplied with a specific number for the potential results and operates within its limits.

The execution of these figures requires different instructions. If we order the computer to draw a circle, it will complete the task, then stop. However, drawing fractals necessitates programming the computer so that it would continue to draw infinite chains. In other words, once the computer completes a simple and specific task and works out an inclined line with minimal details, it starts immediately to repeat the same task at a smaller length scale, thus generating similar smaller details indefinitely. The proportion between the different length scales is the factor (B) which we referred to as the second aid for fractal drawing. As a matter of fact, repetition is the artifice that enables geometric shapes involving several length scales to change the simplest geometric shapes. The interrupted chain, meaning that which is drawn after a specific number of steps, is much simpler than the continuous chain because the computer is instructed to know where it should stop and where it should insert an addition, just like a meter. When the figure is free of chains, the outcome is often an extremely smooth and sleek shape. In contrast, when chains are involved, the shape becomes highly rough and irregular, more like the terrains of beaches and islands. The inner lining of the lung, the beach terrain and the distribution of stars all follow the same stretched fractal pattern. ●●

THE MONTHLY INTERVIEWS

MAYA EL-AMMAR

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR AT KAFA

In 2005, a group of female activists from different backgrounds took a pledge to move towards a society free of gender-based violence. By establishing KAFA, these women took their first step in what promised to be a long and arduous journey. Against the backdrop of widespread violence against Lebanese women, *The Monthly* conducted the following interview with Maya El-Ammar, Communications Coordinator at KAFA, to gain more insight into the association's activism in this area.



Maya El-Ammar

Women's rights organization KAFA endeavored to put the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act on the agenda of the joint parliamentary committees. After this laborious path, are you satisfied with the final form in which the law was approved of?

Upon ratification of the Act in Parliament and later upon by the President of the Republic signing it, we were disappointed especially that the President had heard our outcry. We expected him to send the Act back to Parliament or at least not to sign it in order to express his reserves. Prior to that, we were also shocked at the MPs' failure to live up to their commitment. We communicated with all parliamentary blocs, including 71 MPs who advocated both the amendments we proposed to the law and the objections we raised and acknowledged the need to incorporate them in the final draft. Much to our surprise, the MPs did not keep their word in Parliament nor did they even fight to adopt the amendments, and in addition the Act was not given the attention it deserved during the parliamentary discussions.

What are the major amendments you proposed but were not considered?

As far as the amendments are concerned, our propositions paid close attention to the details in order to obtain the optimal and most equitable act once and for all. When life-threatening violence occurs, female victims usually report it to the Public Prosecutor's Office- directly or indirectly through police stations- seeking protection measures. This entity is authorized to detain the abuser for two or at most four days, but lack the jurisdiction to issue a protection order for a longer period and

the woman is therefore referred to the Judge of Summary Matters to obtain it. Any delay in issuing the said order puts women at risk of escalating violence because in the meantime the abuser will be at large, not to mention the financial burdens that the appointment of a lawyer entails. In order to facilitate and simplify the mechanism thus sparing women both the hassle and the risks, we requested that the Public Prosecution be vested with issuing protection orders instead of granting this power to the Judge of Summary Matters exclusively.

Furthermore, the Act does not criminalize all types of acts of violence in the household. Undoubtedly, I think it is only fair to extend gratitude to the judges for the notable jurisprudence developed in this context. However, the Act still lacks a lucid enumeration of all types of the acts of violence such as the deprivation of liberty, verbal abuse, humiliation, etc.

Our third amendment addressed marital rape. In 2011, Dal El-Fatwa, followed by the Higher Shia'a Council, viewed that there was no such thing as marital rape and thus refused to recognize it as a form of abuse. KAFA urged the criminalization of non-consensual spousal intercourse and called on amending the term "with the intent of redeeming spousal rights" mentioned in the text. This term justifies the use of violence on the grounds that intercourse is a mandatory spousal duty. They forced the religious concept of "spousal rights" into a civil act and applied it to everyone, which is unacceptable, let alone that the law punishes the abuser for the misdemeanor, i.e. it punishes him for the physical abuse he causes during rape rather than for the act of rape itself.

Fourth, the law stipulates that the restraining order shall include the victim and those assisting or living with her if they, too, are exposed to danger. Children under the legal age of custody shall also benefit from the order. However, since one can only speak of custody in the case of divorce, we protested over the custody concept. Secondly, the age of custody differs from one sect to another and sometimes even between girls and boys within the same sect. The insertion of the custody concept thus discriminates among child victims because it covers some and excludes others, not to mention that the woman will be reluctant to report the violence for fear that the protection order might not necessarily shield her children from danger.

Finally, we drafted the protection measures in the bill based on our practical experience with abused women, but MPs chose to standardize the measures and apply them to all family members.

How do you plan to continue what you started towards the approval of the law to which you aspire and which guarantees full protection for women?

The law has entered into force and we are currently implementing it. Despite the loopholes, it would be unfair to negate the achievements we have made with respect in particular to protection measures, especially that a specialized Internal Security Forces division will soon come into being to tackle complaints and take action. We will certainly persist in our endeavor to push through the amendments we raised either through a draft law presented by a Member of Parliament or by redrafting the bill anew when a more favorable environment allows it: at the moment the current presidential vacuum has paralyzed the country.

Who would you hold primarily accountable for the domestic violence phenomenon: the judiciary for failure to acknowledge the rights of women and to do them justice? The indifference of law makers towards domestic violence? The lack of transparency in the collection of forensic evidence? The patriarchal society which continues to find excuses to justify the injustice befalling women?

You cannot blame it on one party and spare the others. I believe that the patriarchal concepts inculcated in the minds of our male-dominated community remain the festering tumor that gnaws at the mindset of MPs, parents and society at large. All of these have a responsibility to make a difference. Neighbors should not be afraid to report suspected cases of abuse; parents should stand by their daughter and encourage her to break the silence and MPs should live up to their legislative responsibilities and approach the case of domestic violence more seriously. Justice remains the only recourse that can bring satisfaction to victims and their families and we have recently seen some promising and advanced orders

such as the order issued by Mount Lebanon's Investigative Judge against Roy for driving Christel Abou Chacra to commit suicide.

Have the legal reforms proved useful in preventing the violence phenomenon and is legislation enough in a male-dominated eastern culture that justifies killing women under the pretense of restoring the family's honor? Are there official statistics on this subject?

It was hard to obtain such statistics in the past. However, after institutionalizing the work, we now hope that we will be able to obtain much more accurate numbers through files and documentation. A few years back, KAFA did not receive 5 or 6 calls daily or 2600 calls annually as is the case today. This is proof that women have become more likely to speak up and seek help. We have assisted in the release of three protection orders in one month. We do realize that legislation alone does not solve the problem. There is a pressing need for strict implementation and for radical transformation of the deep-seated patriarchal norms but in the presence of entities keen on raising awareness, following-up the cases and bringing culprits to accountability, law can and will ensure a certain degree of justice.

We are fully aware that what we aim to achieve will not be easy or without obstacles. We are trying to penetrate a static male-dominated system, embedded in our social fabric for thousands of years. But we will persist in our pursuit to change and break the rigidity of these anti-woman archaic models.

How do you assess the support of social media to your cause?

Our goal is not to advertise the name of the association. Communicating our message is what we want to achieve above all. We look at media outlets as our partner. Like all social segments, the media is concerned with our cause as much as we are and we consider it part of our team. Media campaigns have certainly helped us shed more light on violence and make our voice heard more rapidly. They have also constituted a lobbying force both on law and decision makers and we owe them gratitude for their support and coverage of our cause.

Do you have any final words to say to those women who are afraid of reporting domestic violence and to their families?

I would like to reassure Lebanese women that violence against women is a global controversy and they are not alone in this. This knowledge alone should create solidarity among them and empower them to surmount their fears. I urge every female who is being victimized in any way possible to call the nearest police station immediately and report the abuse or to contact us at our hotline 03-018 019. ●●

ACSAUVEL

BECAUSE GIVING IS A VIRTUE

Establishment

In the summer of 1979, in response to the intensification of war and bombings, a group of female social activists avowed to try to relieve the suffering and the tragedies incurred during the violence. To achieve this, they rushed to send out a message of solidarity and hope by lending a helping hand to the segments most susceptible to war, i.e. the children, through the establishment of ASCAUVEL, the Civil Association for the Safeguard of Children in Lebanon. Two years later, the women decided to take in those children with special needs, in particular those with intellectual disability, and to care for them at the association's center, which relocated several times before it finally settled at the Tamiche Monastery area in Metn.

Overview

The center is currently in charge of 70 children and adults with special needs. They are welcomed to the center at the age of 5 until the age of 42, at which stage parents are requested to take care of those whose mental failure to keep up with the educational program might undermine the understanding of other children in the center and cause them fear and anxiety.

In order to keep the child within the family climate, instead of secluding him entirely, the center made sure not to include dormitories in its premises. The Ministry of Social Affairs covers the registration fees and the families pay for transportation. Since the center does not have the equipment necessary to handle children with double or multiple disabilities, it opens its doors and harnesses its capacities to attend to those children suffering from mild or moderate mental retardation, because people with severe mental retardation benefit little, if any, from the educational programs available at the center. Students suffering from fear, low self-esteem and introversion can also



be transferred from regular school settings where the adequate approaches to dealing with them are absent, into the center. These students require special attention from ACSAUVEL's specialists to treat the complex of inferiority they have developed in their schools.

Pedagogical Program

In addition to psychotherapy, speech therapy and sports therapy, ACSAUVEL's psycho-pedagogical program includes music education and IQ activities. Through its specialist education, the center aims to ensure the intellectual, mental and social growth of the patient as well as his physical development, which is most important for boosting children's confidence. It is noteworthy that the center is home to a basketball team that participates in the Special Olympics.

Theatrical activity

Fully aware of the importance of the role of theatre in providing a space for people to express themselves, unlock their potential and release their most profound feelings, the association introduced theatre into its pedagogical program to enhance the mental and intellectual faculties of the students. This step has set ACSAUVEL apart from the rest of the NGOs caring for children with special needs. Theatrical exercises empower students to confront the judgmental society and enhance their articulation and recitation skills, thus furthering their self-esteem.

ACSAUVEL's children have performed in five plays over the past five years with the participation of actor and play-writer George Khabbaz who makes sure to

be present throughout the entire show to motivate and encourage the children. All the plays served to communicate to the community and the attendees the message that people with special needs are normal people who can love and who deserve to be loved in return and to be given the opportunity to participate in mainstream society far from stigmas and seclusion.

Other activities

ACSAUVEL's children have partaken in other activities including the Byblos beach clean-up and the reforestation of fire-stricken areas. They were also part of training workshops held to teach them how to weave wicker baskets, make pottery and mosaics. The workshops were conceived to train children in craft-based skills and they were employed as therapeutic means that helped the child becoming a productive individual who was paid in return for his product. During their attendance of the workshops, the center specialists observe participants and single out those who demonstrate sufficient mental, intellectual and social development for their inclusion in the labor market, after coordination with their parents. Five ACSAUVEL's students are now active workers fairing quite well and getting decent pay. These workshops are conducted under the supervision of a special trainer and their products are later displayed and sold at the annual Christmas exhibition. The proceeds are channeled to support the center.

Future projects

ACSAUVEL seeks to establish an environmental club for children and adults with special needs, an unparalleled project that will be sponsored and financed by Alfa. The possibility of expanding the premises to include a nursery for disabled children under 4 years of age is also under discussion.

Challenges

Parents are often struggling with an enormous guilt complex for having given birth to a mentally retarded child. This requires intervention at the family level and drives ACSAUVEL specialists to address this negativity by holding regular meetings in private with each family in private. The center is also faced with family ignorance of how to cope with the children, which necessitates training and education to teach the techniques and strategies for family to cope.

The awareness campaigns aimed at the larger public that have flooded the media have not erased the misconceptions surrounding the mechanisms of coping and coexisting with people with special needs and a lot still need to be done both in education and awareness to promote acceptance and tolerance of differences and to push towards the inclusion of people with special needs into mainstream societal contexts such as schools and labor markets in preparation for their full integration into society. ●



US TRIP

In Istanbul, two girls got on board; a beautiful Turkish girl and a short Armenian towards whom the Goddess of beauty had acted stingily vouchsafing the girl nothing of her generosity. The girls had booked a room near ours. They were also heading for the US to pursue their education at Columbia University and so we welcomed our travel companions.

The Roma set sail towards the Romanian port of Constanza to unload the young Jewish men and women. The ship arrived shortly before nightfall. We were told we were going to stay in Romania for two days and those who wished to visit the capital, Bucharest, should catch the high-speed train, leaving the Port area at 8:00 am.

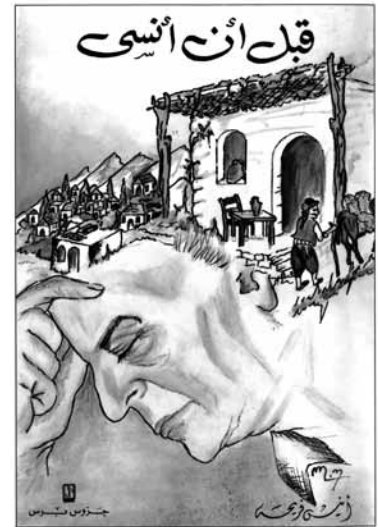
A -mass of Jews descended from the ship. The rich headed for Bucharest and the “dervishes” remained in Constanza. We set out on our sightseeing trip. Cherries had just begun to ripen and were large and delicious. We saw Romanian women clad in traditional costumes selling cherries in small beautifully-crafted baskets on the streets. I bought one and kept it as a souvenir of Romania.

We made many tours around the city and drank Romanian wine, in the company of the two Turkish girls, before returning to the ship in the evening.

From Romania, we went back to Greece. We passed through Corinth and headed from there to the port of Athens. Together with the two Turkish girls, we climbed the Acropolis rewarded by the view. We had been introduced to the glory of Athens during our philosophy and ethics classes. The hill of the Acropolis had bestowed upon human civilization an unparalleled legacy. We paid tribute to the memory of Greek philosophers and returned to the ship which continued to Palermo, a beautiful city where we spent the day. A guide came to us saying “do you not want to see the remnants of the Arab antiquities?” We lamented about past Arab civilization and headed back to the ship.

From Palermo, the ship sailed towards Algiers, a magnificent city with a French-speaking population. It was the cherry-picking season here too but Algeria’s cherries were much tastier than Romania’s.

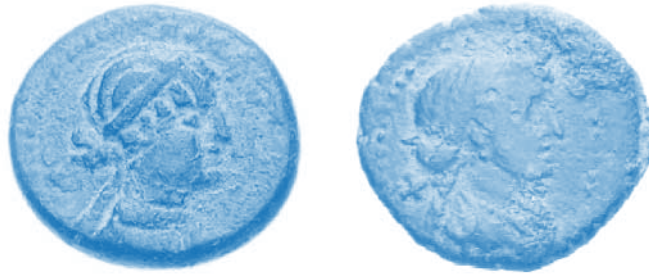
At the Algerian port, we saw wine boxes piled up on the quay. Fine Algerian wines were bound for the US. We spent the night in Algeria and in the early morning, the Roma departed for Barcelona in Spain. On the Spanish quay, there were bags of onions also awaiting shipment to the US. The smell of wine and onions permeated the cabins of the ship and we thanked God that the Roma was a small ship for we were by now fed up with waiting around at all these ports. We were eager to see the Statue of Liberty in the New York Harbor. ●



WAS CLEOPATRA TRULY BEAUTIFUL?

Myth:

Literature and media have always maintained that the ancient Egyptian pharaoh Cleopatra was a beautiful and strong female leader.



Fact:

However, this image of a female leader notorious for her seductive and persuasive appearance has no historically documented proof. In fact, her features, as they appear on ancient artifacts may even suggest otherwise.

This vision of a persuasive and cunning ruler is more likely to have been related to her character and intellect rather than to her physical appearance. She did in fact seduce the prominent Roman leaders Julius Caesar and Mark Anthony, but this may not have been the function of her physical appearance. Ancient historians never actually made direct references to her physical beauty. Moreover, her portraits on ancient coinage do not reveal attractive features. Instead, these portraits depict a small forehead, a big nose, a small mouth and a long chin. Not exactly Elizabeth Taylor.

In 2001, the British Museum again shed light on this issue with an exhibition of marble statues that had been made of the queen. These statues, agreed on by many historians as depicting Cleopatra, show a woman rather small in size, with harsh facial features and expressions. The historian and biographer Plutarch in his *Life of Antony* said the following of Cleopatra: “Her actual beauty...was not so remarkable that none could be compared with her, or that no one could see her without being struck by it, but the contact of her presence...was irresistible.... The character that attended all she said or did was something bewitching.”

To this day, we are not able to decipher what the queen looked like, but the closest portrayals do not exhibit the great beauty that the movies have created. This is further backed by writings that never mentioned her beauty. The image of a beautiful queen remains baseless. The undeniable charm of her character is then more likely linked to her charisma, her eloquent speech, intelligence and her persuasive ways. ♣

A LIFE STORY: 37 YEARS AT THE IC

BY NABIL RAHHAL

“My entry to the IC was coincidental... I was in my office at the US Embassy’s Press and Information Department when the phone rang. It was my esteemed teacher Moussa Suleiman urging me to hurry and see him, for he wanted me to fill the available vacancy at the IC’s Department of Arabic Language... After a lengthy discussion, he convinced me that I was born to be a teacher and that the teacher can practice journalism if he so wishes but the reverse is not true.”

And this is how it all began...

These opening lines of Nabil Rahhal’s *‘A Life Story: 37 Years at the IC’* pave the way for a compulsively readable memoir outlining the author’s long journey at the International College.

At the onset of his book, which was first published in 2004 by World Book Publishing, Rahhal offers a glimpse back in time to the early beginnings of the IC as well as to its legal and academic status. The school was founded in Izmir, Turkey in 1891 by the American Alexander MacLachlan, but it was moved to Beirut following the rigid Turkish laws that undermined free and liberal education. IC was known for many years as a preparatory for AUB before the two finally separated in 1961 due to the financial problems affecting the latter.

1964 marked the start of Rahhal’s journey at and with the IC. From a teacher in 1964 to a student guidance counselor in 1973, to a Head of the Middle School Department then of the High School in 1981 and 1986 respectively, Nabil Rahhal stepped up the ladder until he finally became Vice-Director of the Development and Alumni Affairs and served in this position from 1996 until his retirement. He cites the reasons for his entry to the academy as well as the crises he encountered while dealing with the then Phalanges-backed right-wing students, the DFLP-backed left-wing students and the militias that governed Lebanon during the tumultuous Civil War in 1976 until Israel’s invasion of Lebanon in 1982. “Those were the unforgettable years of torment and suffering... Reluctantly, we stood our ground and bore the threats that targeted both the institution as an entity and the people running it as a human force,” says Rahhal while outlining the implications that the turmoil has left on the education sector. Non-oblivious of the era of nepotism, favoritism and volatile security, Rahhal conjures up a number of incidences that tarnished that stage: “Among the applicants for admission to the nursery



class was the niece of a highly powerful man in the country... Her name was excluded from the acceptance list... The next day, four militants broke into the school...”

He then elaborates on the IC’s Board of Trustees and sheds light on the election and functions of its members. A margin is assigned to analyze the personalities and underline the achievements of all five IC Presidents whom he knew and worked with closely.

The IC Alumni Association is given detailed attention throughout the memoir. Rahhal writes about the Association as a holistic entity, delving back into its history and stopping at its Assembly members and the method of their election. He took great pride in all 12,000 male and female graduates who, wherever they landed, were able to earn high social and financial standing. Among those were high-achieving physicians, engineers, academics, politicians and business tycoons. He later pays tribute to the IC’s Scoot which complemented the role of the college.

Notable personalities such as “Mehyou”, the IC’s Kiosk keeper, “Chawki”, the Cafeteria’s dynamo, and “Elia Rjeily”, the valet entrusted with the cars of teachers and guests are also assigned ample room in one of the chapters.

At the end of the book, Rahhal dedicates his 37-year life story to the big IC family, from the small screws or the unsung heroes that facilitate the work of the engine to the main generator, expressing his gratitude to principals, teachers and students alike. Most beautiful of all are the memories conjured up by the photos adorning the memoir and reflective of a journey recounted in flashback. ●

DIFFERENCE IS A MUST

“Upon hearing me say that straight long hair was prettier than short curly locks, the girl on my school bus was provoked to start pulling my hair and putting me in pain every single morning.”

Sanaa Ali Haraki's *Difference is a Must* is a children's book that addresses the phenomenon of bullying in a simple, yet purposeful manner. Illustrated by Bassam Al-Imam and published by Asala Publishers, the book is part of the series *Stop! Reflect! Take Action!* It aims to promote justice and equality and to push towards following the law, the respect for the feelings of others and the acceptance of differences. Freedom of choice is one of the main messages that Haraki intends to get across.

“Days later, my mother changed my hairdo and I changed my unintended teasing behavior. When I stopped implying that my hair looked nicer than hers, the girl stopped bugging me.” ●



AL-JO'LOUK, AL-SO'LOUK AND AL-BOHLOUL FAMILIES

There are several families in Lebanon with linguistically inappropriate names. Most of their members are educated men who have earned high social and cultural standing, contrary to what that their family names imply. Of these are the families of Al-Jo'louk (meaning 'erratic'), Al-So'louk (meaning 'douche-bag') and Al-Bohloul (meaning 'crackpot').

Jo'louk (Al-Jo'louk)

These families consist of roughly 210 members distributed in North Lebanon, particularly in Akkar. They are predominantly Maronite and Greek Orthodox with a Sunni Muslim minority.

Maronite: 80 members

- Qoubayyat (Akkar): 35
- Manjar (Akkar): 25
- Andaqt (Akkar): 20

Greek Orthodox: 115 members

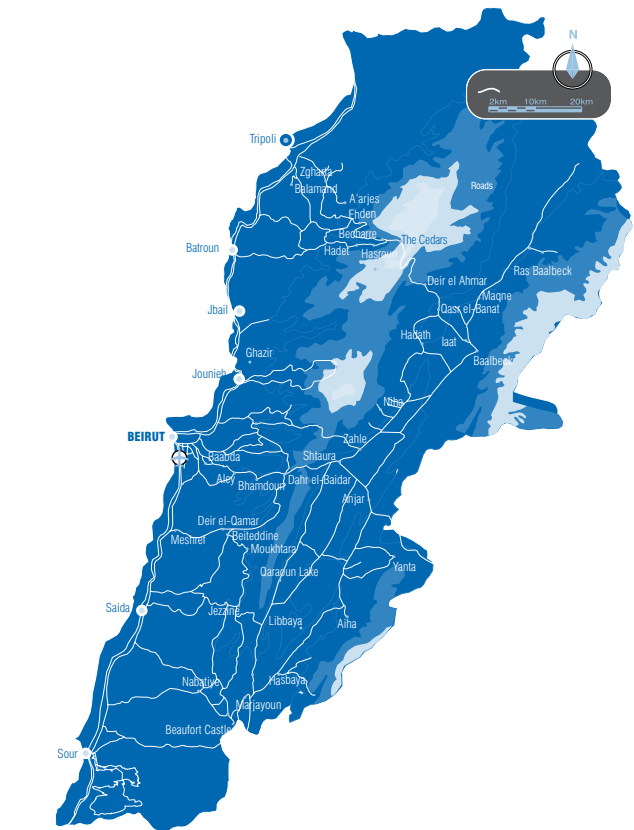
- Shadra (Akkar): 70
- Oueinat (Akkar): 45

Sunni: 15 members

- Bab El-Tebbaneh (Tripoli): 15 members

Al-So'louk

The Al-So'louks are a small family including 120 members all of whom are Shia'a settled in the towns of Boudai (100 members) and Al-Nabi Naam (20 members) in Baalbeck.



Al-Bohloul

These families are made up of 150 Sunni members. They are mainly present in Al-Msaytbeh area of Beirut and are distributed in fewer numbers in Al-Rmeil.

HNAIDER

SUNNI-ALAWITE COEXISTENCE

The town of Hnaider became a major news story soon after investigations identified the suicide bomber who blew himself up in a car on Al-Arid Street in the southern suburbs of Beirut on Thursday, January 2, 2014 as Qoutayba Mohammad Dabbah Al-Satem, a member of the Sunni Al-Satem family, which moved from its hometown, Wadi Khaled, into the predominantly Alawite town of Hnaider.

Etymology

Opinions are divided as to the origin of the town's name. Some speculate that 'Hnaider' is a diminutive form of 'Handar', an Arabic root meaning 'iris.' Others argue that the word is derived from the root 'Hadr', which means 'to surround', and it is likely that the town was given this name because it was surrounded by forests in the past.

Location

Hnaider is located in the Qada'a of Akkar, 170 kilometers from Beirut, at an altitude of 550 meters above the sea level. It stretches across a large area of 1000 hectares and may be reached by taking the following route: Tripoli-Halba- Qbayyat- Wadi Khaled-Hnaider. The town is only hundreds of meters away from the border with Syria.

Population

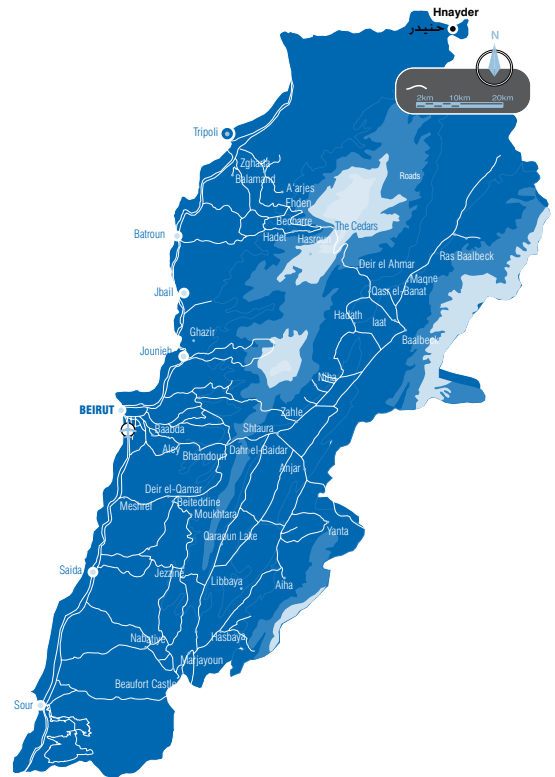
The population registered in Hnaider's records is estimated at 3520 people, all of whom are Alawite. However, those residing in the town do not exceed 1700 and some are distributed in Tripoli and Halba. The town hosts a number of families originating from Wadi Khaled.

Voters

In 2013, eligible voters amounted to 2070 compared to 1769 in 2009 (of which 1025 cast their ballots) and 1290 in 2000 (of which 486 turned out for elections), up by 780 or an annual growth of 4.6%, a somewhat high percentage.

Voters are distributed among the following families:

- Ahmad: 440
- Abdul Karim: 260
- Suleiman: 221
- Sheikh: 122
- Qassem: 120
- Hassan: 94



- Ali: 91
- Ibrahim: 88
- Youssef: 83
- Omran: 76
- Mohammad: 74
- Radwan: 45
- Asaad: 45
- Saleh: 40
- Hamdan: 37
- Labban: 35
- Abdul Rahim: 30
- Mahmoud: 30
- Other families: Thalja, Al-Ali, Mostafa, Baddour, Daghman

Local authorities

Two Mukhtars and a 3-member Ikhtiyariyah body are vested with the local authority in Hnaider.

Educational institutions

The town is home to one school, Official School of Hnaider, which has 202 students and 15 teachers. The school building is at risk of collapse due to too many students.

Economic life

In particular, agriculture, smuggling and employment by the military in particular are the main pillars of economy in Hnaider. ●

MONTENEGRO

A NEW HOT SPOT IN THE BALKANS

Montenegro, or the Black Mountain, is one of Europe's youngest countries, which declared independence from Serbia in May 2006. Despite its small size, this south European and Mediterranean republic has earned a reputation as a mosaic of nations and cultures with rich historical heritage.

Location and Area

Montenegro is a southeastern European country that shares borders with Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo and Albania. It lies on the Balkan Peninsula and covers only 14,000 km².

Population

Montenegro has an estimated population of 670,000 citizens.

Religion

Montenegro is a multi-religious country with a predominant Christian population and a significant Muslim minority, making up 19% of inhabitants. Orthodox Christianity is the main Christian denomination, but there is a notable Roman Catholic presence. There are also small minorities of Protestants and Jews.

Major Language

Montenegrin is the official language of the country and is a variation of Serbian.

Economy

Montenegro's economy relies heavily on tourism and the country is viewed as a hot spot on the world tourist map, with tourism revenues constituting the backbone of economic growth. The service sector accounted for 72.4% of GDP in 2007 according to the World Bank. Although known as a target for direct foreign investment, the ability to attract foreign investors can sometimes expose Montenegro to external shocks. Mining and manufacturing are also essential parts of the economy, with emphasis on the exports of refined metal.



Political System

Montenegro is a parliamentary republic that declared independence from Serbia following an independence referendum held in 2006 and approved by 55.5% of voters. The Montenegrin Parliament is an 81-seat unicameral body where deputies serve a four-year term. The President is elected directly by secret ballot for a term of office of five years and each president can have two terms in office. Filip Vujanović is now serving his second term as Head of State. ●

MAY 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

- Presidential seat falls vacant after failure to elect successor to Suleiman
- Al-Rai's visit to Jerusalem stirs up controversy
- Protests and strikes over failure to approve salary scale
- Syrians flock en masse to vote for Assad

May 1

- During a rally organized by the Lebanese Communist Party on May 1, 2014, the party's Secretary General, Khaled Hdaded lashes out at 'money sharks' and at the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers, which he branded as a 'rusting sword'.

- In his speech at the Diplomatic Expatriates' Conference held at Le Royal Hotel in Dbayyeh, Minister Nouhad Al-Mashnouq emphasizes that raising the issue of citizenship restoration on a sectarian basis ruins the concept and its potential applicability.

- "March 8 Forces are disrupting the elections in order to take us to Doha or Paris, but we are not going anywhere this time," says the Lebanese Forces leader in a speech before party members.

- The Lebanese Army reopens the road leading to the airport after it was blocked in protest at the transfer of inmates from Al-Mawla family from the prison in Roumieh to one in Tripoli.

- Minister of Foreign Affairs Gebran Bassil says that a plan is being pursued to nationalize 400,000 Palestinians.

May 2

- The Cabinet convenes at the Baabda Palace and approves the appointment of five governors after accepting the resignation of the Governor of the North, Nassif Qaloush. It also allocates USD 24 million to open a road to the town of Tfail and another USD 52 million to construct roads in Jal El-Deeb, and agrees to recruit 2,500 Internal Security Forces members and 500 General Security personnel.

- Saudi Ambassador Ali Awad Osseiri returns to Lebanon to resume

his duties after an absence of many months, reiterating the autonomy of the presidential election.

- President Michel Suleiman addresses the Lebanese ambassadors abroad stressing that the foreign intervention in the selection of a new president of the republic is unacceptable and branding the quorum disruption as a non-democratic act.

- The US Ambassador to Lebanon, David Hale, visits Speaker Nabih Berri and PM Tamam Salam, stating that Washington has no role in selecting the president.

May 3

- "We will not surrender to disruption and boycotting," says the Lebanese Forces leader in a televised speech during the party's dinner in Montreal.

- Former President Amine Gemayel states in a press conference that every Maronite politician aspires to become President of the Republic, adding that his nomination is natural because he has been an active player in the political scene for such a long time and he does not face any of the barriers that hindering the path of other candidates.

May 4

- During the inauguration ceremony of the Michel Suleiman Sports Village in Byblos, President Michel Suleiman reiterates his objection to any foreign intervention in the selection of a new president, hoping that May 7, 2014 will erase May 7, 2008.

- Head of the Loyalty to the Resistance Bloc, MP Mohammad Raad, assures that no Head of State would ever come to power unless he was supportive of the choice of resistance.

- The Lebanese Army arrests a man, Ali Amoun, wanted on suspicion of sending car bombs from Syria to Lebanon, in the town of Arsal.

- Foreign domestic workers protest demanding their rights.

May 5

- The Baabda Palace hosts the national dialogue session in the absence of Hezbollah, General Michel Aoun, the Lebanese Forces, MP Suleiman Frangieh and MP Talal Arslan.

- "My nomination for President of the Republic is tied to the decision of the politburo," says former President Amine Gemayel.

- The ad-hoc parliamentary committee submits its report to Parliament after having reduced the cost of the Salary Scale to LBP 1,800 billion and abolished the clause related to the retroactive effect, hoping to enforce the new scale by July 1, 2014.

- Fierce forest fires flare up in the town of Batchay and reach the surrounding area by the Presidential Palace in Baaba.

- The monthly statement of the Maronite bishops stresses that the talks about presidential vacuum imply helplessness and urges Maronite leaders to implement what they had abided by in Bkerki as to their attendance of the parliamentary sessions convened to elect a president.

- "I know how to perform my duties and I refuse custody," says Maronite Patriarch Mar Bechara Boutros Al-Rai in response to the criticism that surrounded his planned visit to Jerusalem.

- General Michel Aoun receives former President Amine Gemayel in Rabiye.

May 7

- Presidential elections postponed over lack of quorum, with only 73 attendees in the session.
- Saudi Ambassador Ali Awad Osseiri visits President Michel Suleiman, Speaker Nabih Berri and PM Tamam Salam, reiterating that the selection of a president is up to the Lebanese.

May 8

- First corona-virus case detected in Lebanon.
- Heavy rain results in torrents, landslides and accidents in a number of Lebanese regions.
- The Lebanese Forces leader, Samir Geagea, visits Patriarch Al-Rai and assures that he is ready to withdraw his candidacy in favor of another consensual March 14 candidate.
- During his meeting with former minister Suleiman Frangieh in Bnashii, former President Amine Gemayel assures that his initiative aims to elect a President of the Republic so as to confront the upcoming challenges.
- Patriarch Al-Rai pays a visit to President Michel Suleiman reiterating his objection to a vacant presidential seat.
- The Lebanese Army Command issues a statement announcing that a number of Tripoli's militia leaders have turned themselves in.

May 9

- The Cabinet session held at the Baabda Palace approves a number of administrative appointments in Grade 1 posts and President Michel Suleiman requests clarification from the Minister of Foreign Affairs over the statements made by the former commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard regarding Lebanon.
- By virtue of his delegation of 56 families, Lebanese lawyer Tarek Shandab takes legal action against Hezbollah, the Amal Movement and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party for their violations in the events of May 7, 2008.
- Minister of the Displaced, Alice Chabtini, issues a decision ordering the evacuation of houses belonging to the Christians who were forced to

leave the town of Brih in the Shouf area.

- Talks circulate about a joint pursuit between the Lebanese government and the United Nations to set up camps for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Lebanese authorities have suggested the establishment of the camps in safe areas inside Syria near the border with Lebanon.

May 10

- The Lebanese Forces leader renews his rejection of any compromise over presidential elections and accuses those who are taking up the cause of the Christians of striking the highest post of the state.
- Minister of Justice, Major General Ashraf Rifi, renews his unwavering cooperation with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

May 11

- Maronite Patriarch Al-Rai reiterates his staunch rejection of presidential vacuum during mass held in Harissa.

May 12

- Maronite Patriarch Al-Rai receives former President Amine Gemayel and the advisor of former PM Saad Hariri, Nader Hariri, separately. Gemayel reaffirms his keen interest in avoiding presidential vacuum while Hariri emphasizes his party's commitment in keeping the Christian component as a symbol of the country.
- Speaker Nabih Berri receives the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Derek Plumbly, and warns of Israel's persistence in breaching Lebanon's sovereignty following the violation which unfolded in Al-Labwi near Al-Naqoura. President Michel Suleiman has requested the Minister of Foreign Affairs to file a complaint before the UN Security Council over the violation.
- In his speech at the Beirut Refugee Conference, Minister of Public Health Wael Abou Faour proposes the establishment of refugee camps deployed in 36 areas rather than the current distribution of Syrians in roughly 1,600 locations. Minister

of Labor Sajaan Qazzi refuses the suggested solution.

- Minister of Youth and Sports Abdul Moutaleb Hennawi proposes the preparation of a constitutional formula that would prevent a vacant presidential seat.
- Armed clashes between Islamic groups at the Ain El-Helwe camp leave nine wounded.
- The Special Tribunal for Lebanon announces the resuming of trials in the Rafik Hariri assassination case on June 18.

May 13

- President Michel Suleiman meets former President Amine Gemayel and tweets "I am awaiting for May 25 and I have no role in any plans for term extension plans."
- Al-Jadeed's Deputy Director, Karma Khayyat, appears in the Hague STL session while Al-Akhbar's Editor in Chief Ibrahim Al-Ami refuses to attend the hearing requesting session adjournment in order to have enough time to prepare his defense.
- Rumors circulate about the death of Nabi Al-Alam in Brazil. Al-Alam WAS a Syrian Social Nationalist Party leader, accused of plotting the assassination of President Bashir Gemayel by recruiting Habib Shartouni.

May 14

- Parliament fails to approve the salary scale and postpones the discussion until the forthcoming session.

May 15

- Parliament postpones its fourth session scheduled for the election of a president of the republic until May 22 due to lack of quorum.
- The Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea urges the amendment of the constitution so as to set the quorum required to hold the parliamentary electoral session to half plus one, reiterating his objection to legislative activity in the absence of a president of the republic.

May 16

- The Cabinet session held at the Grand Serail concludes with the agreement on reducing phone bills and approving a number of administrative appointments.

- The Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea leaves for France.

- Saudi Ambassador Ali Awad Osseiri reiterates during his visit to Patriarch Al-Rai that the presidential election is an obligation incumbent first and foremost on the Christians.

- A Hezbollah delegation meets Al-Rai and briefs him about the negativity marring his planned Jerusalem visit.

May 17

- Druze and Christians celebrate the long-awaited reconciliation in the town of Breeh in the presence of MP Walid Jumblat and Patriarch Al-Rai and under the auspices of President Michel Suleiman. Jumblat holds later a ceremony in honor of President Suleiman at the Mukhtara Palace and the latter brands Jumblat as Lebanon's political weathervane. Earlier in his speech, Walid Jumblat mistakenly addresses the President of the Republic as Michel Aoun, drawing a ripple of laughter from the attendees.

- Former PM Saad Hariri meets LF leader Samir Geagea at the former's residence in France.

- The Higher Defense Council convenes at the Baabda Palace and gives instructions to protect institutions and unify security efforts.

May 18

- Patriarch Al-Rai reaffirms his rejection of presidential vacuum and urges MPs to elect a president before May 25.

- Rockets launched from the Syrian opposition target areas in Haour Taala, Ersal and Hermel.

May 19

- Bkerki hosts a Muslim-Christian gathering to promote coexistence and preserve the country.

- PM Tamam Salam arrives in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on an official visit and meets Saudi officials and Lebanese expatriates. Former PM Hariri holds a banquet in his honor and Salam assures that the presidential elections are not a subject of discussion in the Kingdom.

- President Michel Suleiman revokes the Rent Act.

President Michel Suleiman sends a letter to Speaker Nabih Berri urging him to accelerate the election of a new successor.

May 20

- PM Tamam Salam continues his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and meets briefly with King Abdullah Bin Abdul Azizi in Jeddah airport before heading for Morocco.

- Former President Amine Gemayel is of the opinion that current candidates have difficulty gaining in the presidential elections, which requires a compromise to yield a consensual President.

- Tripoli's security setback results in injuring eight members of the military.

May 21

- Parliament convenes to address the letter of the President of the Republic without any new developments.

- Iran's new Ambassador to Lebanon, Mohammad Fathali, arrives in Beirut to present his credentials.

- The Lebanese Forces leader, Samir Geagea, reveals that Patriarch Al-Rai had brought up the proposition of extending President Michel Suleiman's term of office in order to avoid vacuum, but the suggestion was not greeted with majority support.

May 22

- The Cabinet session held at the Grand Serail approves a number of administrative appointments. Noteworthy was the shift of certain posts from one sect to another.

- Parliament fails to elect a President of the Republic in its fifth session due to lack of quorum. Only 73 MPs attended.

- The Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities urges Syrian refugees not to organize political alignments in compliance with Lebanon's decision to distance itself from the Syrian conflict.

- President Michel Suleiman receives the credentials of Iran's new Ambassador to Lebanon, Mohammad Fathali.

- General Michel Aoun calls in his statement for a tripartite alliance between the Free Patriotic Movement, the Future Movement and Hezbollah, which draws objections from March 14 Forces.

- The Lebanese Forces leader, Samir Geagea, assures that his party will not partake in legislation after the seat of the President falls vacant.

- The Ministry of Justice receives legal notices from the Criminal Court of Latakia against MP Walid Jumblat and journalist Fares Khashan who were accused of undermining the reputation of the Syrian state.

May 23

- Outgoing President Michel Suleiman chairs the last Cabinet session before he leaves office. The Cabinet decides to form a ministerial committee seeking the establishment of Syrian refugee camps inside Syria or in the border region but fails to approve the long-awaited appointments of deans and professors at the Lebanese University.

- "What is the point of liberation if it does not lead to a democratic state," says President Michel Suleiman in his farewell speech before the employees of the Baabda Palace and journalists.

- Maronite Patriarch Mar Bechara Boutros Al-Rai arrives in Jordan on his way to Jerusalem and storms out of an interview with France 24 in rejection of the anchor's provocative questions, after reaffirming that both

the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister granted him the permission.

- Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Gebran Bassil, states that the government's activity after the presidential vacuum will not be moving at the same pace as before.

- The wives of each of the Speakers, Nabih Berri, former PM Najib Mikati and former PM Fouad Seniora receive awards from the outgoing President Michel Suleiman.

- MP Walid Jumblat attends a ceremony held by the resisting civil society in Baysour, stressing the importance of liberation and the role of resistance in the presence of Hezbollah's minister Hussein Haj Hassan.

May 24

- The Baabda Palace hosts a farewell ceremony for President Michel Suleiman who raises the need to amend the gaps marring the constitution, urging the holding of presidential elections on time and stressing that he will not be responsible for the repercussions and risks of presidential vacuum.

May 25

- In a televised speech aired during a ceremony held in Bint Jbeil on the anniversary of the Resistance and Liberation Day, Hezbollah's Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah underlines his support for a President of the Republic who would not stab the resistance in the back, stressing that Hezbollah rejected the attempts to extend President Michel Suleiman's term of office.

- ISF Intelligence Bureau arrests Islamic cleric Omar Bakri Fostok in Aley who fled from Tripoli in the wake of the arrest warrant issue against him.

- Former President Michel Suleiman arrives in his hometown, Amsheet, amid a crowd of ministers, MPs and ambassadors and an almost total absence of March 8 officials with

the exception of MP Yassine Jaber. MP Walid Jumblat calls on the new President-to-be to walk in Suleiman's footsteps.

May 26

- Parliament's General Secretariat receives the signed presidential decree calling on Parliament to hold an exceptional session.

May 27

- Hezbollah mourns Mahmoud Al-Hayek who was killed in Syria. Al-Hayek was accused of attempting to assassinate MP and Minister Boutros Harb.

May 28

- In response to Nasrallah, the Lebanese Forces leader, Samir Geagea, opines that the current presence of Hezbollah undermines the state.

- Syrians flock en masse towards the Syrian embassy in Yarzi to cast their votes for a President of the Republic of Syria, causing immense traffic jams and total paralysis on the Beirut-Beqa'a-Beirut road, which triggers a wave of protests from the March 14 officials who call for the dismissal of pro-Assad Syrian refugees from Lebanon.

May 29

- PM Tamam Salam tells As-Safir that the disruption of the government is a political decision.

- Journalist Ibrahim Al-Amin appears before the Special Tribunal for Lebanon via video-link from the tribunal's offices in Monte Verde and withdraws from the hearing after denouncing the STL and assuring that he neither recognizes the legitimacy of the court nor that of the UN Security Council, which overlooks the crimes of Israel. Judge Lettieri says the court had no jurisdiction over the crimes raised by Al-Amin.

- Maronite Patriarch Al-Rai continues his pastoral tour and reaches Akka and Al-Nasira in occupied Palestine.

- Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Gebran Bassil receives his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier who is in Lebanon to discuss the Syrian refugee crisis.

May 30

- The Cabinet convenes its first session following the vacancy in the presidential seat to discuss the course of action and the decision-making mechanisms while the seat is vacant.

- Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants opens the Diaspora Energy Conference in the presence of 300 emigrants, stating that the very existence of Lebanon will be endangered if no identity is given to emigrants.

- The Union Coordination Committee calls for the boycotting of elections and the disruption of public administration's work, warning that June 7 will observe an open-ended strike if lawmakers fail to approve the salary scale.

May 31

- Minister of the Interior and Municipalities, Nouhad Mashnouq, issues a decision suspending the refugee status of those Syrians who enter Syria from June 1, 2014 and then return to Lebanon. Mashnouq assures that his decision aims to maintain order in Lebanon and has nothing to do with the Syrian elections.

- Maronite institutions deny the leaks reported regarding their side talks with Aoun. Aoun has reportedly suggested awarding Bashar Assad a Nobel Prize for fighting terrorism.

- Minister of Justice, Major General Ashraf Rifi, urges the State Prosecution to arrest the members of Hezbollah who appeared in a video shooting in the air following the speech of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. ●

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY- LEBANON

THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE

ARAB START WITH A SYRIAN ENDING

“The Arab Deterrent Force” is a name well recognized by those Lebanese who witnessed and survived the Civil War. This peacekeeping force, which consisted of troops from different Arab countries, came to Lebanon to halt the war. However, the Arab troops withdrew from the Force one by one until it became predominantly Syrian. Today, thirty-eight years after the formation of the Arab Deterrent Force, we discuss the circumstances that led to its creation, its scope of work and its departure from Lebanon. Thus, this article is an opportunity for remembrance and lesson learning, with the hope that the war will NOT break out again despite the current political tensions and the acerbity of sectarian rhetoric.

Circumstances

The Lebanese Civil War broke out in 1975 and took on large Arab and international dimensions fueled by the involvement of Palestinian armed groups in the fighting and the Syrian military intervention. In order to curb further Palestinian influence, the Syrians sided initially with the Phalanges Party and the National Liberal Party. Conversely, the Palestinians and their Lebanese allies, in particular Kamal Jumblat, branded the Syrian involvement in the events as a Syrian genocide and called for Arab intervention from Egypt and the Arab League in order to stop the Syrian forces.

Subsequently, the Arab Ministers of Foreign Affairs held a series of meetings in Cairo in July 1976 that yielded- among other things- the formation of a committee comprising representatives from Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Tunisia and the Palestine Liberation Organization. Egypt and Tunisia were later replaced by Libya and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The objective of the committee was to formulate a draft agreement to end the Lebanese conflict. The discussion focused on how to bring about the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon and to give an Arab guarantee for the Palestinians and their Lebanese allies, and thus paving the way for a Syrio-Palestinian reconciliation.

During the meeting held on Tuesday, July 13, 1976, the Arab Ministers of Foreign Affairs agreed on the following:

- To reaffirm, respect and be committed to the ceasefire
- To welcome the willingness of the Syrian and PLO delegations to begin to work immediately towards the normalization of their relationship

- To promote the Arab security force and reinforce it with the units, equipment and weapons necessary to ensure its missions and movements
- To provide and supply those affected by the Civil War in Lebanon with fuel, medication and food from all the Arab countries

The Arab peacekeeping force under Major General Mohammad Hassan Ghounaim began to receive reinforcements and deployed itself in a neutral zone between East and West Beirut starting Wednesday, July 21, 1976. This small-scale force, which later constituted the nucleus of the Arab Deterrent Force, could not stop the continuity of battles across the region, which resulted in the convening of a sexpartite Arab Summit in the Saudi capital, Riyadh in the presence of representatives from Lebanon (President Elias Sarkis had assumed office as a successor to Suleiman Frangieh), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria, Egypt and the PLO. The Summit’s statement stipulated the following:

- Reinforcing the Arab security forces into becoming an Arab Deterrent Force operating inside Lebanon under the supreme command of the President of the Lebanese Republic in person and consisting of roughly 30,000 troops. Its functions shall be as follows:
 - Imposing commitment to the ceasefire and deterring violators
 - Maintaining domestic security
 - Overseeing the withdrawal of gunmen where they were prior to April 13, 1975
 - Implementing the Cairo Agreement
 - Supervising the collection of heavy weapons

- Assisting the Lebanese authority, when necessary, in handling the public facilities and institutions.
- Declaring ceasefire and putting an end to the fighting between all parties across all of Lebanon starting from October 21, 1976 at 6:00 am.
- Setting up Arab Deterrent Force's checkpoints after the establishment of buffer zones in the areas of tension.
- Withdrawing militants, collecting heavy weapons and putting an end to all armed manifestations according to a specific timetable.
- Implementing the Cairo Agreement and its appendices, especially regarding the presence of weapons and munitions inside the camps, the withdrawal of the armed Palestinian forces that entered after the start of events and an avowal by the PLO not to meddle in the internal affairs of any Arab country.
- Later on October 25, an Arab Summit Conference was held in Cairo and espoused the decisions of the Riyadh Summit.

Formation of the Arab Deterrent Force

The formation of the Arab Deterrent Force had been given much attention amidst the PLO's desire to have troops from different Arab countries, particularly from Egypt, participating in the peacekeeping force in order to prevent Syrian monopoly. However, Egypt opted not to partake, and the Syrian troops who had already entered Lebanon were thus the most superior numerically, totaling roughly 27,000 members against 3,000 from other countries.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: 700

United Arab Emirates: 700

Sudan: 700

Yemen: 700

On November 1, 1976, President Elias Sarkis appointed Colonel Ahmad El-Haj (a pro-Fouad Chehab officer) as head of the Arab Deterrent Force

Deployment

The troops began their deployment and clashes erupted between the Syrian troops within the Arab Deterrent Force and the Christian parties and militias during the former's positioning in the eastern areas. Emirati forces were distributed in Western Beqa'a and Saudi forces in Shiyah and the area neighboring the airport before they moved to Dawra and Karantina. Yemeni troops positioned themselves in Al-Hadath and Al-Kafaat and Sudanese troops in Ain-Remmaneh- Shiyah.

Discord and lack of coordination

Dissension soon erupted between Colonel Ahmad El-Haj and Syrian officers due to a conflict of responsibilities and a lack of coordination, leading El-Haj to give up his mission. While El-Haj was appointed Director General of the Internal Security Forces, President Sarkis and the High Syrian Command agreed to replace him by Lieutenant Colonel Sami el-Khatib who had fled to Syria in 1970 and lived there as a political refugee, fleeing the officers of Deuxième Bureau. Numerous battles were fought between the Syrian forces and the Lebanese Forces headed by Bashir Gemayel who launched what looked like a war to liberate Christian areas from Syrian occupation. A number of Lebanese Army officers advocated the secret scheme devised by Sheikh Bashir Gemayel, which resulted initially in sensitivities that escalated soon into attacks between the Lebanese Army and the Syrian troops. Most notable of these was the clash of February 21, 1978 at the Shukri Ghanem Army Barracks in Fayyadieh.

That morning, the Syrian forces set up a checkpoint in front of the said barracks, thus triggering alarm among the soldiers and officers. After the failure of mediation talks aimed at removing the checkpoint, the Lebanese Army units, under the command of Captain Samir El-Ashkar, opened fire at Syrian troops, killing thirteen and wounding thirty-six. In retaliation, the Syrian troops bombed the barracks leaving one officer dead and three soldiers injured.

The state of hostility between the Syrian and the Lebanese Forces, coupled with the Syrio-Palestinian convergence and the feeling amongst the leaders and members of Arab units that they were only a numerical complement to the Arab Deterrent Force, accelerated the withdrawal of these forces, especially after the visit of the Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. The Saudis were the first to retreat from the Arab Deterrent Force, followed by the Yemenis, the Sudanese and finally the Emiratis. By the end of May 1979, the Syrians were the only ones left, thus transforming what was once known as the Arab Deterrent Force into a Syrian Deterrent Force operating under the President of the Lebanese Republic in name only. The actual decisions were made in Damascus and the situation remained as such until 1982 when the Syrian forces withdrew from Lebanon following the Israeli invasion, bringing the mission of the Arab Deterrent Force finally to its end. ●

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY- ARAB WORLD

INDEPENDENCE OF THE COMOROS ON JULY 6, 1975

The Comoros is an archipelago located in Southern Africa. It consists of four large islands: Ngazidja, Mwali, Anjouan and Maore in addition to a number of much smaller islands. As for the island of Mayotte, it is considered an overseas department under the administration of France. Islam arrived early to the Comoros with the migrant Arab groups and travelers who sought to establish their own emirate or sultanate. The Shirazi, who originated from the city of Shiraz in today's Iran, landed in the Comoros and formed a powerful sultanate under the command of Sultan Mohammad Bin Hassan Bin Mohammad Bin Issa after unifying the islands.

The successors of Mohammad Bin Hassan did not have the same leadership competencies of their predecessor and their conflict over power was not resolved until each of them was given independent control of their island. The islands were divided into 12 emirates.

The emirates were too preoccupied with their peripheral and personal conflicts to pay heed to the menace of outsiders and enemies who had started to infiltrate the Comoros. By helping some emirs against their rivals, France managed to enter the Comoros and to occupy Mayotte in 1841, then Mwali in 1886 before declaring the Comoros an official French colony in 1912. France arrested Sultan Ali Bin Omar, the last of powerful Comorian men, and the situation remained as such until the Second World War.

When Germany occupied France in the Second World War, Britain took over the Comoros and made it a base for its warships in the Indian Ocean. After the war, the Comoros was ceded back to France and De Gaulle declared it a French overseas territory. However, movements claiming autonomy began to rise and multiply. Three islands voted for independence while Mayotte voted against it. Yet, this did not stop Ahmad Abdulla from declaring unilateral independence on July 6, 1975 and becoming the first President of the Republic of Comoros.

France refused to let the islands enjoy stability and the Comoros remained until recently a stage for turmoil and frequent coups d'état. Since independence, the country has witnessed 20 coups d'état and coup attempts.

On August 3, 1975, French mercenary Bob Denard ousted President Ahmad Abdulla in a military coup

plotted with the help of France, and replaced him by the United National Front member Emir Said Mohammad Jaafar. He was also dethroned a few months later, giving way to the Minister of Defense Ali Soilih. The rule of Soilih saw seven coup attempts before he was finally dismissed from authority and killed. Power was ceded once again to Ahmad Abdulla who remained in office until he was shot dead in his office in 1989. Said Mohammad Jawhar succeeded him until 1995 when the French sent him into exile.

In 1997, Anjouan and Mwali declared themselves as independent states in a bid to be integrated again into the French Republic but France refused this. This resulted in bloody confrontations between the rebels and the Union Forces until the Army's Chief of Staff, Colonel Azali Assoumani, led a coup deposing interim President Tadjidine Ben Said Massoude, thus marking the 18th coup d'état in the Comoros.

Upon Azali's failure to enhance his powers, the African Union intervened to devise a new political charter for what it called the "Union of the Comoros", allowing the three major islands to be largely autonomous, with a union presidency to be rotated every four years between them. The 2006 elections, which rotated the union presidency to Anjouan, were won by Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi.

On March 25, 2008 hundreds of the African Union and the Comorian troops took over the rebel-held island of Anjouan, driving Mohammad Bakkar to seek political asylum in the Mayotte Island, a French overseas department located in the Indian Ocean. Ikililou Dhoinine is the current President of Comoros ●

ON THE BELIEFS AND PLOTS OF AL-QAEDA (4)

HOW TO RECRUIT JIHADISTS AGAINST ARAB AND ISLAMIC STATES

Disclaimer: The views expressed in the article below are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of *The Monthly*.

Recruiting Jihadists is a pivotal matter as far as the beliefs and plots of Al-Qaeda are concerned because those constitute the backbone of fieldwork in the face of regimes, particularly Arab and Islamic regimes, towards the liberation of Jerusalem and all the regions that the Muslims used to rule in the past centuries. In what follows we shed light on how Al-Qaeda perceives Jihadi recruitment as reported to us from informed sources.

“The heat of the events is the optimal environment for Jihad education as it pushes flocks of youngsters to join the caravan of Jihad every day. In Asian countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia and former Soviet Union states, as well as in cities such as Fallujah and the like, proponents of Jihad are emerging on a daily basis. Those are neither acquainted with the committee of senior Jihadist scholars nor with those situations that lead to the delinquency of committed juveniles in certain parts of the Arab World. They are pretty much like a tabula rasa, driven innately by their sincere sentiments to support religion. It is true that this may entail negative effects such as poor discipline, but this is where we should step in to bridge the gap. Those youths will not abandon Jihad, God willing, for in Jihad they have found their intrinsic human nature and they will receive orientation from any living example of Jihad. It is one of God’s blessings upon us that the modern Jihadist role models represented by the Supreme Command for Jihad and its right-hand men and supporters are highly disciplined at the scientific level and are surrounded by top-ranking scientific and religious committees. All we need to do is to relay our approaches to those youths, provided that a scientific and an educational methodology is devised to scale them up during the fighting, perhaps God, in his might and generosity, would bestow upon us leaders who would be able to guide and conquer.

It is noteworthy that some of these places such as Indonesia, Malaysia and the former Soviet Union states nestle the roots of some Islamic movements

and host scholarly authorities that have been eyeing the Arab World- the cradle of Islam- for so long and waiting for Jihadist scientific leaderships to join their ranks. The youths there, with their pure intrinsic disposition, look forward to smell the fragrance of chronicling the Great Islamic history, but are only waiting for someone who would guide them through, prescribe their motion and decide which enemy they shall target first.

With regards to Jihadist education, the following books are recommended:

- *Sabeel Al-Da’awa Al-Islamiya* and *Min Hadi Surat Al-Anfal* by the late Sheikh Mohammad Amin Al-Masri.
- *The Shadows*, a book that explains the Quran verses related to trials and tests and to invasions.
- The books and recordings of the late sheikh Abdulla Azzam in general.

I have deliberately repeated our action plan with regards to the foregoing and mentioned its multifaceted aspects so that the reader of this study may develop a clear conception of the existing action and its purposes. I would like to warn that pointing out the features of our plan from numerous sides might delude speed readers that the plan lacks lucidity. Therefore, readers are encouraged to abandon speed reading patterns and to concentrate on reading slowly and avidly so as to be able to spot the difference between the details of the action planned for the areas of key states and those planned for the remaining

states. Regarding the areas of key states, a two-phase plan is devised in preparation for total empowerment, with the first phase differing from the second at times and bearing similarities at others. In contrast, the remaining states operate usually on the basis of a single phase until outer victory and empowerment are brought to them, God willing, although their action steps are undoubtedly affected by the developments unfolding in the areas of key states.

No matter how greatly we master these rules; no matter how well we master our operations and reap the harvest thereof, we should be careful not to surrender to pride or arrogance, for the grace we are enjoying is credited to no one but God. He who contemplates the reality of our situation can easily detect our weaknesses and can realize that our might and power are derived from God and God alone. All we need to do is to hit and approach all feasible means, trusting in God all the way down, for he, alone, is our Supreme Patronizer.

Whenever I heard about certain operations, I used to be vigilant about the objectives of decision-makers, but thanks to God almighty, I would be amazed that the outcomes of the operations exceeded all expectations and were far better than what the planners and executors had imagined. Thanks are due, first and foremost, to God who has united the Jihadists in their quest to support his religion and who has destined these actions to success and has cast his blessings upon their outcomes. I would also like to note that, sometimes, I hear accounts or statements involving a certain degree of amazement and grandiose or I read such accounts to the young members, and this is praiseworthy when performed out of a sentiment of superiority over the infidels and the alarmists (liars). If, conversely, it was done out of sheer haughtiness and vainglory, God forbid that our youths should slip into this vanity.

Our path is a long and arduous journey with lots of toil and sacrifice ahead. It requires substantial effort and diligence so let us remember the laborious endeavors of our companions, may God be pleased with them, who although were still blood-stained and burying their martyrs after the Uhud defeat, responded to the alerting call of Prophet Muhammad, prayers and peace of God be upon him, who mobilized his men and followers to

pursue the enemy in Hamra'a Al-Asad. None of them defied his orders or requested to be allowed back home to change their clothing and gear up for the battle. They did not surrender to what had befallen them nor did they weaken or rested their case but rather blew their horns, one after the other, and left no stone unturned until they obtained what they desired in life and the afterlife. In the words of God Almighty: 'Those who responded to God and the Messenger after injury had struck them. For those who did good among them and feared God is a great reward.'

To God I swear that I can picture the Jihadists established in the Maghreb, in Algeria particularly. When the morning of that day comes, God willing, there will be no time for rest and none of the them shall recite the Asr prayer (afternoon prayer) except in Tunisia, on the borders of Libya, so that they get prepared for their conquest of Libya and Egypt. The enemy is fully aware of our action momentum. "Do not be deceived by the state of stability and control in Tunisia. If a change occurs in Algeria or Egypt, a change will also be seen in Tunisia 15 minutes later," said the Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

To God I swear that I can picture the Jihadists victorious in the Arabian Peninsula. When the morning of that day comes, God willing, they should be on full alert to move towards the conquest of the micro-states ruled by those vile regimes in Jordan and the Gulf. With the withdrawal of US troops from the Iraq, the remainder of America's fake halo will fade away and so will the regimes that support it. Honest men will then pounce to restore the rights of the nations that were plundered by puppet regimes and the peoples of those nations will welcome the conquerors with arms wide open, for with patience and certainty, efforts shall pay off.

"And We made from among them leaders guiding by Our command when they were patient and [when] they were certain of Our signs."

"And if you are patient and fear God, their plot will not harm you at all. Indeed, God is encompassing of what they do." ●

REAL ESTATE PRICES- MAY 2014

A rosy summer may be awaiting the Lebanese real estate market following the increase in transactions recorded in May 2014 and the preceding month. The real reasons behind this recovery remain uncertain: they may be attributed to the state of passivity that had been lingering for a while and also to the state of stability prevailing amidst the absence of car bombings.

Tables 1 and 2 illustrate the prices of some estates and apartments sold in May 2014.

Prices of some estates sold in May 2014			Table 1
Region	Area (m ²)	Price (USD)	USD/m ²
Beirut			
Hamra	800	14,400,000	18,000
Ashrafieh (Monot)	610	7,930,000	13,000
Ashrafieh (Gemayzeh)	520	9,100,000	17,500
Sodeco	1,020	14,280,000	14,000
Badaro	725	3,915,000	5,400
Baabda			
Furn el-Chebbak	850	4,165,000	4,900
Hadath	900	1,125,000	1,250
Hazmieh	750	2,025,000	2,700
Matn			
Mazraat Yashouh	1500	1,200,000	800
Monteverde	1000	1,200,000	1,200
Beit Mery	2,000	2,000,000	1,000
Broumana	1,420	1,207,000	850
Aley			
Choueifat	1,700	850,000	500
Aley	1,300	390,000	300
Kessrouan			
Kfardebian	500	250,000	500
Adma	1,250	1,500,000	1,200
Qoulayaat	1,000	350,000	350

Source: Compiled by Information International

Prices of some apartments sold in May 2014			Table 2
Region	Area (m ²)	Price (USD)	USD/m ²
Beirut			
Ashrafieh	185	462,500	2,500
Ashrafieh (Rizk)	160	464,000	2,900
Saifi	100	280,000	2,800
Sioufi	220	616,000	2,800
Mar Elias	175	455,000	2,600
Basta Tahta	100	180,000	1,800
Sanayeh	180	459,000	2,550
Baabda			
Hazmieh (Mar Taqla)	200	400,000	2,000
Hazmieh (Mar Taqla)	160	368,000	2,300
Hadath (Al-Amerkan)	170	272,000	1,600
Yarzi	280	728,000	2,600
Jomhour	210	294,000	1,400
Furn el-Chebbak	120	216,000	1,800
Ain Roummaneh	150	315,000	2,100
Matn			
Ain Saadeh	110	209,000	1,900
Roumieh	230	287,500	1,250
Antelias	170	272,000	1,600
Beit Mery	180	288,000	1,600
Monteverde	240	540,000	2,250
Mansourieh	180	255,600	1,420
Aley			
Bshamoun	210	304,500	1,450
Aramoun	100	100,000	1,600
Khaldeh	200	220,000	1,100
Aley	120	120,000	1,000
Doha Aramoun	140	168,000	1,200
Kessrouan			
Adonis	140	189,000	1,350
Adma	160	336,000	2,100
Zouq Mosbeh	150	210,000	1,400
Jounieh	200	300,000	1,500

Source: Compiled by Information International

Real estate movement in the first quarter of 2014

The number of real estate transactions in the first quarter of 2014 reached 15,834, worth USD 2.1 billion, compared to 13,619 transactions at USD 1.5 billion during the same period last year.

The total transactions in 2013 amounted to 69,198, worth USD 8.7 billion.

Social Media in Numbers

- **One hour of video** is uploaded to YouTube every one second.
- **40 million** photos are uploaded on Instagram every day.
- **32%** of all internet users have a twitter account.
- Every Facebook user has on average 130 friends.
- **25%** of Facebook users do not have privacy settings to control what content they share.
- **Over 3 million** companies have created company pages on LinkedIn.
- **Over 225 million** users have registered a professional profile with LinkedIn.
- **77 million** LinkedIn users in the United States make it the country with the most membership on the site.
- India ranked second with **20 million users**.



Beirut International Airport

Rafic Hariri International Airport Traffic - April 2014

The number of passengers using Rafic Hariri International Airport in April 2014 rose by 25.9% compared to March 2014 and by 5.1% compared to the same period last year.

Rafic Hariri International Airport handled 2,800,104 passengers over the first four months of 2014.

Rafic Hariri International Airport traffic in April 2014 compared to March 2014 and April 2013 Table 1

Traffic	March 2014	April 2014	April 2013	% of change March/April 2014	% of change April 2013/2014
Arriving airplanes	2,397	2,490	2,484	+3.9	+ 0.24
Departing airplanes	2,398	2,532	2,483	+ 5.6	+ 1.9
Total no. of airplanes	4,795	5,022	4,967	+ 4.7	+ 1.1
Arriving passengers	211,733	269,279	240,265	+ 27.2	+ 12
Departing passengers	217,910	271,799	274,190	+ 24.7	-0.87
Transit passengers	1,326	1,475	1,507	+ 11.2	-2.1
Total no. of passengers	430,969	542,553	515,962	+ 25.9	+ 5.1
Imported goods (per ton)	5,737	5,177.2	5,798	-9.7	-10.7
Exported goods (per ton)	3,265	2,999.5	4,049	-8.1	-25.9
Total amount of goods	9,002	8,176.7	9,847	-9.2	-17

Source: Information International based on the Civil Aviation Directorate General

- **23,136** is the number of employees working in the banking sector in Lebanon at the beginning of 2014. The banking workforce rose by 499 people during 2013. Females account for 45.9% of employees and the total salaries amount to roughly USD 1 billion.
- **LBP 100 million** is the worth of the credits transferred from the public budget reserves to the Ministry of Justice. The amount was put at the disposal of the Public Prosecutor to cover miscellaneous expenses.
- **1236** is the number of new apartments that were constructed in Beirut in 2013, with an estimated value of USD 2 billion.
- **102,390** is the number of members in the military sector (Lebanese Army, Internal Security Forces, General Security, State Security, Parliament Police) in Lebanon, accounting for nearly 40% of the total public servants.
- **1,5 billion** cubic meters are Lebanon's water needs in 2014, half of which are designated for agriculture.

Publications by Information International (in Arabic):

- 1- Salaries and Remunerations in the Public Sector
- 2- Public Seaside Properties
- 3- Lebanon's Parliamentary History 1920-2000
- 4- Taxes and Fees
- 5- Lebanon in Figures 1992-2002
- 6- Lebanon in Figures 2003-2004
- 7- Lebanon in Figures 2005-2006
- 8- Lebanon in Figures 2007-2008
- 9- Lebanon's MPs and Lebanese Parliamentary Elections 1960 - 2009
- 10- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-North District
- 11- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-Beirut District
- 12- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-Mount Lebanon District
- 13- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-Beqa'a District
- 14- 2009 Parliamentary Elections by ballot box, candidate and confession-South and Nabatiyeh District
- 15- Municipal Elections 2010

Publications by INMA (in Arabic):

- 1- "I am Responsible, All of Us are Responsible"
- 2- "Our Environment is Our Home"
- 3- "My Society is My Responsibility"
- 4- "My Society is My Responsibility" Workbook
- 5- "I am a Student, I am a Citizen: Ways Towards State Building"
- 6- "I am a Student, I am a Citizen: Ways Towards State Building" Workbook
- 7- "Lebanon Wars, why?"
- 8- Discrimination in Lebanon

Publications by Kutub (in Arabic):

- 1- May Ziadeh, Evolution of a Free Female Thinker
- 2- Mission in Hijaz - Lion Roche
- 3- Aleppo Cuisine
- 4- From An-Nabk to Florida
- 5- Institution of Aesthetic Discourse -Saad el-Kassab
- 6- Al A'mal Al She'rya Al-Kamila -Kamal Keir beik
- 7- Majhoulat Gibran
- 8- Shweir and Its Hills, *A photographic record*
- 9- The Wars of Lajat 1837-1838
- 10- New Funerary Phoenician Stelae, *Private Collection*



INFORMATION
INTERNATIONAL sal
السعودية الدولية
للبيروت

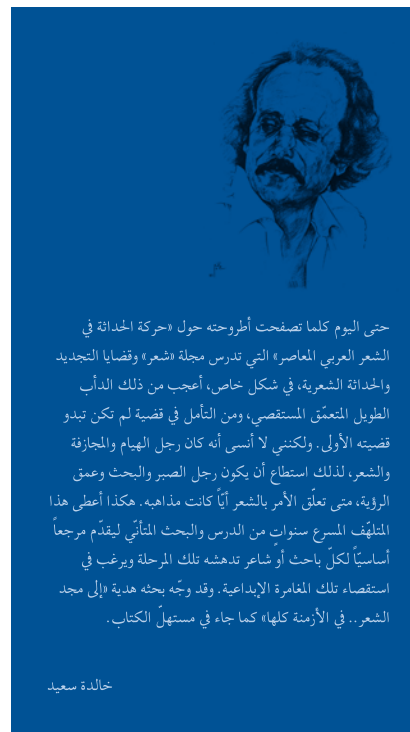
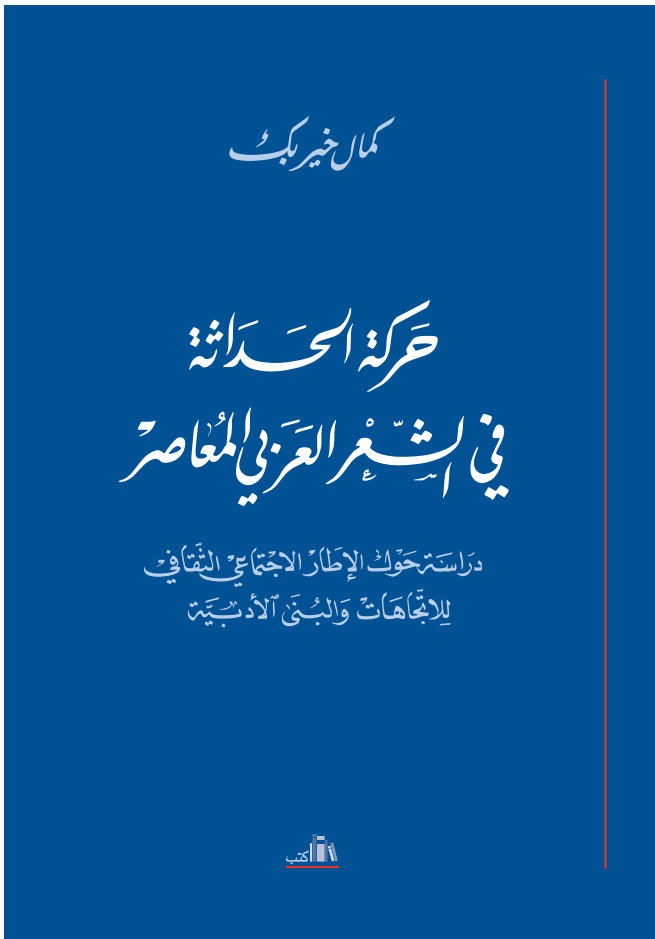


To Subscribe:

Al-Borj Building, 4th Floor, Martyrs Square
Beirut Central District
Telephone: 961-1-983008/9 961-3-262376
Fax: 961-1-980630
info@iimonthly.com
www.iimonthly.com
www.information-international.com
© Information International SAL All rights reserved
License No. 180/2003

THE MODERN MOVEMENT OF MODERN ARABIC POETRY

Believing strongly in the importance of bringing back to life the forgotten literary works that carry high intellectual value, Kutub has recently published a book entitled *The Modern Movement of Modern Arabic Poetry* by the late poet Kamal Kheir Bek. The book is based on a Ph.D. thesis on modern Arabic poetry written by Kamal Kheir Bek at the University of Geneva in 1972. It was first published in French in 1978 and was later translated and published in Arabic in 1982. The importance of this book lies in the approach it uses in tackling modernism in Arabic poetry and its presentation of a comprehensive critical and scientific research that dissects the multiple facets of the modern Arabic poem with specific focus on the production of *Shi'hr Magazine*. Publishing the book aims to introduce the new generation of Arabic poetry critics to a fundamental reference work given credit for rounding out this genre of poetry.



© Kutub, All Rights Reserved
Al-Borj Building, 4th Floor Martyr's Square, Commercial Center
Beirut - Lebanon
P.O.BOX: 11-4353 Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: (961-1) 983008/9 Fax: (961-1) 980630
E-mail: kutub@kutubltd.com
Website: www.kutubltd.com