

Lebanon newspaper publishes 'no news' protest edition

11th August, 2019



Image:
The Daily Star - <https://www.dailystar.com.lb/>

Lebanon's only English-language daily newspaper published an edition on Thursday without any news. The Daily Star printed a newspaper that contained largely blank, white pages. The front page simply said "Lebanon". The inside

pages contained a single banner highlighting the current ills the paper deems the country is suffering from, and the back page had a photo of a cedar tree (Lebanon's national symbol) with a caption reading: "Wake up before it's too late." The newspaper explained why it had not put any news on its pages, saying it had, "refrained from publishing news articles in its print edition" to protest against the country's deteriorating economy and political situation.

The Daily Star's editor-in-chief, Nadim Ladki, spoke to reporters at CNN about the rationale for the protest publication. She said: "The aim is to ring the alarm bells about all the challenges that our country is facing and to urge everyone in Lebanon to work towards resolving these crises." She added that she was, "calling on politicians and everyone to pull together". Some of the headlines on the inside pages read: "Government deadlock," "Pollution at alarming levels," and "Public debt close to \$100 million". Other woes highlighted included unemployment and illegal weapons flooding the country. Ms Ladki said: "It's enough that people take notice of these problems and think."

Sources: aljazeera.com / cnn.com / yahoo.com

Writing

Newspapers should contain nothing but news. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Lebanon / newspaper / edition / blank pages / ills / cedar tree / national symbol / editor / rationale / protest / alarm / crises / politicians / deadlock / pollution / think

True / False

- a) Lebanon has two English-language daily newspapers. T / F
- b) Lebanon's Daily started printed an edition with all black pages. T / F
- c) The Daily Star published a picture of a cedar tree on its back page. T / F
- d) The Daily Star told people to not to sleep too late. T / F
- e) The newspaper rang alarm bells about the country's challenges. T / F
- f) The newspaper had headlines about pollution and illegal weapons. T / F
- g) Lebanon's public debt is over \$100 million. T / F
- h) The editor-in-chief said people should think about Lebanon's problems. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. published | a. reasoning |
| 2. largely | b. heading |
| 3. highlighting | c. worsening |
| 4. caption | d. encourage |
| 5. deteriorating | e. printed |
| 6. rationale | f. inundating |
| 7. challenges | g. focusing on |
| 8. urge | h. stalemate |
| 9. deadlock | i. mainly |
| 10. flooding | j. problems |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What is your favourite newspaper, and why?
- b) What do you think of the Daily Star's actions?
- c) Why might a newspaper be called the Daily Star?
- d) What are your newspaper-reading habits?
- e) What was the last story you read in a newspaper?
- f) What sections of the newspaper do you like best?
- g) What newspapers do you dislike?
- h) What do you think of fake news?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Lebanon's only English-language | a. flooding the country |
| 2. a newspaper that contained largely | b. crises |
| 3. current ills the paper deems the country | c. the alarm bells |
| 4. Lebanon's national | d. notice of these problems |
| 5. the country's deteriorating | e. is suffering from |
| 6. The aim is to ring | f. daily newspaper |
| 7. work towards resolving these | g. unemployment |
| 8. Other woes highlighted included | h. symbol |
| 9. illegal weapons | i. economy |
| 10. It's enough that people take | j. blank, white pages |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Are newspapers better than Internet news?
- Do you think the Daily Star rang alarm bells?
- What challenges is your country facing?
- What crises have there been in your country?
- Do you believe everything you read in the newspapers?
- What do you see as the future of newspapers?
- What questions would you like to ask the Daily Star's editor?

Spelling

- English-language dyali newspaper
- The inside pages ncateinod a single banner
- Lebanon's national boyslm
- with a caopitn reading: "Wake up"
- reaerdifn from publishing news articles
- the country's tangdreitoeri economy
- spoke to reporters at CNN about the aieatrnol
- the protest uoiaclnbitp
- rueg everyone in Lebanon
- resolving these cissre
- Government daclokde
- illegal aesownp flooding the country

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. i	3. g	4. b	5. c
6. a	7. j	8. d	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Celebrity News

You think celebrity news is the best news category. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their category isn't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): business news, local news or political news.

Role B – Business News

You think business news is the best news category. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their category isn't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): celebrity news, local news or political news.

Role C – Local News

You think local news is the best news category. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their category isn't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): business news, celebrity news or political news.

Role D – Political News

You think political news is the best news category. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their category isn't as interesting. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): business news, local news or celebrity news.

Speaking – News

Rank these with your partner. Put the best news at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------|---------------|
| • sports | • celebrity |
| • local | • environment |
| • world | • political |
| • fake | • business |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.