

Al Bilad Newspaper Wrote Down the History of the Kingdom

The Saudi Al Bilad Newspaper deep-rooted history which is full of brightness and luminous contributions in the history of the Saudi journalism history. Along its march brilliant with successes, it remained and it is still regarded, since its issuance, one as one of the most important documentary source that helped researchers in monitoring and following-up the successive development achievements inside the Kingdom and the developments of the regional and international events. Its sober and balanced method of treating the contemporary issues multiplied in terms of analysis and elicitation which were in harmony with all the development of reality and the forward – looking vision for the man of this prosperous land.

Al Bilad Newspaper was issued in the name of the voice of Hijaz in the inception of its issuance. Its first issue was issued on Monday, 27th of Dhul Qaedah, 1350 A.H., corresponding to 4th of April 1932 A.D. Its issuance is considered as an extension of Barid Al Hijaz newspaper issued by Sheikh Muhammad Saleh Naseef himself on 1343 A.H. during the Hashemite era. Its founder Sheikh Muhammad Saleh Naseef at this time and its editor-in-chief Mr. Abdul Wahab Ashi realized the magnitude of the responsibilities of the promising newspaper in undertaking great assignments, aiming at credibility to keep pace with the aspirations of men of letters, and expressing with a an incessant loud and transparent voice in disseminating cultures in belief of the goal of the word and in activation of its role on the dust of this good and prosperous land.

The Voice of Hijaz underwent four stages in terms of franchise:

First stage: The franchisee, its responsible director, and founder was Sheikh Muhammad Saleh Naseef. This was since the first issue up to the issue 152 on 2 Muharam 1354 A.H., corresponding to 16th April 1935 A.H.

Second Stage: Its franchise was transferred to (The Arab Company for Printing and Publishing) chaired by His Eminence Sheikh Muhammad Srou Al Sabban from the issue 153 on 19 Muharram, 1354, corresponding to 23th April 1935 A.H. It is well-known that the Arab Company for Printing and Publishing purchased the franchise of the Voice of Hijaz from Mr. Naseef and the franchisee has been (the Arab Company for Printing and Publishing), and it continued till up to the issue of 2961 on 15/7/1437 A.H., corresponding to 25/1/1959 A.D. The issue No. 2961 is deemed as the last issue of the Saudi Al Bilad newspaper after its issuance under (No.1) after the merger with Arafat newspaper, and it was then issued in the name of Al Bilad.

It is worth mentioning that the Saudi Al Bilad newspaper ceased to be issued during the World War II, and specifically at the issue No. (592) issued on 27th Jamada Al Akhera of 1360 A.D. Then, its issuance was resumed in the name of the Saudi Al Bilad newspaper on Monday, 1 Rabe Thani 1365 A.H., corresponding to 4/3/1946 A.D., and it was issued under No. (593). Then, its issuance was resumed under the franchise of the Arab Company for Printing and Publishing.

Third stage: The franchise of the newspaper was transferred from the Arab Company for Printing and Publishing to the Arab Company for Printing and Publishing and Mr. Hasan Abdul Hai Qazaz after the merger between the Saudi Al Bilad newspaper owned by the Printing and Publication company and (Arafat) newspaper which is owned by Mr. Hasan Abdul Hai Qazaz. The merger of Al Bilad with Arafat was made on 16/7/1378 A.H., corresponding to 26/1/1959 A.D. It was issued under the issue No.1. By virtue of this merger, its name was changed to Al Bilad newspaper instead of the Saudi Al Bilad newspaper. Its franchise remained shared by the Arab Company for Printing and Publishing and Mr. Hasan Abdul Hai Qazaz up to the issue No. 1556 dated 29 Shawwal 1383 A.H., corresponding to 13 March 1964 A.D.

Fourth Stage: The franchise was transferred from the Arab Company for Printing and Publishing and Mr. Hasan Abdul Hai Qazaz to Al Bilad Organization for Journalism and Publishing from the issue No. 1557 on Sunday 2 Dhul Qaedah 1383 A.D.

The presidency of this lofty edifice was successively assumed by a number of distinctive competent journalists who are considered as symbols of the Saudi journalism and they had clear fingerprints in its deep-rooted history, including the Professors:

(According to the period of working in the chronology of each of them):

The Voice of Hijaz:

Mr. Abdul Wahab Ashy (may Allah be merciful with him) from 27th Dhul Qaedah 1350 to 22 Safar of 1351 A.H. to the issue No. 12. Mr. Abdul Wahab Ashy remained the editor-in-chief for three months only.

Mr. Muhammad Saleh Naseef (may Allah be merciful with him), the franchisee of the newspaper became the editor-in-chief with the assistance of Mr. Muhammad Hasan Fiyy without mentioning his name in the newspaper, starting from the issue No. 13 on 29 Safar 1351 A.H.

- Mr. Hasan Kataby from 9th Ramadan 1352 A.H. from the issue (89) and he remained an editor in chief till Shawwal 1352 A.H. at the issue No. (92).
- Sheikh Muhammad Saleh Naseef (may Allah be merciful with him) once again as an editor-in-chief and its franchisee and manager for a short period from 13/10/1352 A.H., corresponding to 15 January 1932.
- Mr. Muhammad Ali Redha from 27 Shawwal 1352 A.H., corresponding to 13 February 1934 A.H. from the issue (95) till the issue (147) in 1354 A.H.
- On 4 Safar 1354 A.H., corresponding to 7 May 1935 A.D. from the issue 155, the editorial of the Voice of Al Hijaz was assigned to (an elite of youth).
- Mr. Ahmad Qandeel (may Allah be merciful with him) from 4 Shabban 1355 A.D., corresponding to 20 October 1936 from the issue (299) to the issue (637) on 12 Jamada Al Awal 1356 A.D.
- Mr. Ahmad Al Sebai (may Allah be merciful with him) from 19 Jamada Al Oula 1356 A.H. from the issue (368) till Safar 1357 A.H. as Mr. Ahmad Al Sebai occupied the position of a director of the Printing and Publishing Company which has the franchise of the newspaper and an editor –in-chief of the Voice of Al Hijaz.
- On 26th Safar 1357 A.H., corresponding to 26th April 1938 A.D., Mr. Ahmad Al Sebai was concerned with managing the Arab Company of Printing and Publishing and the editorial was assigned once again to (an elite of youth) who did not desire to mention their name in the newspaper including men of letters: Ahmad Ibrahim Al Ghazawy, Muhammad Said Al Amoudy, Muhammad Hasan Feqy, and Muhammad Hassan Award. Hence, this arrangement remained in the editorial of the newspaper till the last of Dhul Hijjah 1359 A.H. and in the issue issued on 3 Muharam 1360 A.H., corresponding to 2 January 1941 A.D. in which the name of the editor-in-chief or the manager of the Printing and Publishing Company have not been mentioned, but only (the franchisee of the newspaper is the Arab Company of Printing and Publishing) was only mentioned at the top of the newspaper.
- Mr. Muhammad Ali Maghraby from 14 Jamada Al Oula 1360 A.H., corresponding to 8 June 1941, and Mr. Maghraby remained in the editorial till the suspension of the newspaper after the issue 592 on 27 Jamada Al Thani 1360 A.H., corresponding to 21 July 1941 A.H. because of World War II. With the issue 592, dated 27th Jamada Al Thani 1360 A.H. , the first period of the struggle of the Voice of Hijaz ended in serving literature, science, and community. This period lasted for nearly ten years

COUNTRY OF SAUDI ARABIA

- . Country of Saudi Arabia started the second period of its literary and cultural struggle after the end of the World War II and the availability of paper in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after suspension of five years. Hence, the issuance was resumed on 1 Rabe Thani 1365 A.H., corresponding to 4 March 1946 A.H. with the issue No. 593 where the name was changed from the Voice of Hijaz till the Saudi Bilad, and it made its emblem as the emblem of the Saudi Arab People Newspaper.
- Mr. Abdullah Areef (may Allah be merciful with him) from 1 Rabe Thani 1365, corresponding to 4 March 1946 A.D. till 4 Rabe Thani 1375 A.H., corresponding to 20 November 1955 A.D. (from the issue 592 till the issue (202) for a period of ten years.
- From the issue 2003, dated 5 Rabe Thani 1375 A.D., corresponding to 21 November, the Saudi Al Bilad newspaper was issued without mentioning the name of the editor-in-chief, and it was issued in four pages instead of six pages. It was run by Mr. Muhammad Saleh Jamal who was one of its senior officials at that time without mentioning his name in the newspaper. From the issue 2202 on 16 Dhul Hijjah 1375 A.H., corresponding to 1956 A.D., the name of Mr. Muhammad Saleh Jamal was written down at the head of the newspaper as a supervisor of the editorial and administration.
- Mr. Fouad Shaker (may Allah be merciful with him) from 1 Muharam 1376 A.H. in the issue No.(2215) till Rajab 1378 A.D. He remained an editor-in-chief till the merger of Arafat Newspaper with the Saudi Al Bilad in 1378 A.H.
- The Saudi Al Bilad was merged with Arafat newspaper on 16 Rajab 1378 A.H., corresponding to 26 January 1959 A.D. The newspaper was named (Al Bilad) newspaper instead of the Saudi Al Bilad newspaper, and the serial number of Al Bilad was 2961 of the eighteenth year. Yet, Al Bilad started its serialization with the number (1), the first year.
- Mr. Hasan Abdul Hai Qazaz (may Allah be merciful with him) from 16 Dhul Hijjah 1378 A.H., corresponding to 20 June 1959 AD. from the issue (115) to Shawwal 1379 A.H., corresponding to 20 June 1959 A.D. from the issue (115) till Shawwal 1383 A.H. It was permeated by a period in which Mr. Fouad Shaker contributed in the editorial from 1381 A.H. till Shawwal 1383 A.H. Al Bilad was issued during this period without mentioning the name of the editor or the department director. Hence, the names of the editors-in-chief and directors Fouad Shaker and Hasan Qazaz were mentioned from the issue 137 on 10 Muharam 1379 A.H., corresponding to 26 July 1959 A.D., and Mr. Muhammad Hussein Zidan was appointed as an editor-in-chief from 2 Muharam 1380 A.H., corresponding to 26 July 1960 and the previous editors-in-chief remained.
- In 1381 A.H., the position in the editorial and administration changed in Al Bilad newspaper. Hence, Mr. Hasan Qazaz was appointed as an editor-in-chief, Mr. Abdul Ghani Al Qesty as a managing editor, and Mr. Hamed Mutawe' as a managing editor as the position remained till the issue 1556 on 29 Shawwal 1383 A.H., corresponding to 13 March 1964 A..D. till the franchise of Al Bilad newspaper was transferred to Al Bilad Organization for Journalism and Publishing.
- Mr. Abd El-Mejeed Shobukshy (God bless his soul) was elected as a chief editor from 1st Thul Qa`dah 1383 AH and 14th March 1964 AD as the Newspaper of Albilad was issued in eight pages

only no (1557). Shobukshy became a chief editor till Muharram 1403 AH and Dr. Abd El-Aziz El-Nahari from 1st Muharram 1403 AH to 14th SHa`baan 1415 AH.

- Mr. Ghaleb Hamza Abo El-Farag from 14th SHa`baan 1415 AH till 1417 AH.
- Mr. Qenan Abd Allah Al-Ghamdy from 28th Raby` al-THaany 1417 AH till Muharram 1419 AH.
- Mr. Ali Mohamed Hasoun (on behalf of chief editor) from AH to Raby` al-awal 1421 AH.
- Dr. Abd El-Kader Tash (God bless his soul) who commands the country affairs on 6th Raby` al-THaany 1421 AH and 8th July 2000 AD starting from the edition no. 1605 till 16600 on 28th Thul Qa`dah 1422 AH.
- Mr. Ali Mohamed Hasson as an assigned chief editor of Albilad newspaper and a supervisor of the Magazine of Iqraa.
- Mr. Ali Mohamed Hasoun was the chief editor of Albilad newspaper and the supervisor of Magazine of Iqraa on 24/8/1426 AH and 28/9/2005 AD. Mr. Ali Mohamed Hasoun became the seventeenth chief editor of magazine of Albilad since its emergence in 1350 AH or 1932 AD.
- Its general administration was conducted by Their Excellences of known Political, literary and administrative characters who are:
 - According to the order since the institution emergency:
 - His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Saleh Naseef
 - His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Seror Al-Saban (the first founder of library of publishing and printing in the countries. It is Al-Hegazia Library)
 - His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Hassan Fakh (the first director in the counter in the era of journalistic institutions)
 - His Excellency Mr. Abd Allah Mohamed El-Dabagh
 - His Excellency Dr. Hassan Abd Allah Abou Rokba
 - His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Masoud.
 - His Excellency Mr. Amin Abd Allah Alkarkoury
 - His Excellency Eng. Abd El-Aziz Hanafy
 - His Excellency Mr. Abd El-Aziz Zedan

- His Excellency Mr. Abd El-Hafez Abd El-Aziz qary (general manager of Albilad institution for press and publishing) since April 2005 and Safar 1426 AH till 2016 AD.
- Address: Jeddah- Almashrefa district- Al-sahafa street- in front of General Directorate of Traffic and El-Ethad Club.
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