

# MID-EAST e-NEWS

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## Welcome

Having basically been traveling for the last week, e-News arrives a little late, but better for it. The next article on Christian Zionism will be delayed until issue 71 - it required thought, whereas the current contents primarily required work.

Go to the internet to keep up with the events in Lebanon (I have been off-line for 4 days, but back now!) and refer to the map on page 2 for an idea of the locations mentioned.

Qana. Isn't that familiar? What happened there in 1986?

Email your responses to [pkclark@pmbx.net](mailto:pkclark@pmbx.net) & check the web for back issues.

## Another View

In Bernard Lewis' book *What Went Wrong?* (2002, Oxford University Press) he has some interesting observations on the Islamic reaction to modernization, and specifically inventions and innovations introduced by the West. Particularly after the Ottoman defeat at Vienna, and the Treaty of Carlowitz (1699 the Ottomans realized that they had been left behind by Western ingenuity, and began to look for solutions. One was to visit the Western countries of England, France and Austria, and try to learn from them. But even just traveling outside of the Islamic world raised questions:

*On the Muslim side, there was ... reluctance to go to Europe. The Muslim jurists discuss at some length whether it is permissible for a Muslim to live in a non-Muslim country. They consider the case of the non-Muslim in his own country, or in their terms, the infidel in the land of the infidels, who sees the light and is converted to the true faith. May he stay where he is or may he not? The general consensus of the classical jurists is no. It is not possible for a Muslim to live a good Muslim life in an infidel land. He must leave home and go to some Muslim country (p. 36).*

On another hand, the question arose as to whether it was moral to learn from infidels, and apply their teachings:

*The question of learning from infidels arose at a relatively early date in connection with directly military matters. The story is told in the Turkish chronicles of a Venetian war galley that was cast ashore in a storm and abandoned by its crew. Ottoman naval specialists examined the hulk, and found things that they thought it might be useful to adopt. But the religious question arose - is it permissible to imitate the infidels? The answer of the religious authorities was that it was permissible to imitate the infidels in order to more effectively fight against them (p. 43).*

It was impossible for Muslims to accept that there was anything in the Christian religion that contributed to Western leadership in ideas and technology:

*Middle Easterners found it difficult to consider what we might call civilizational or cultural answers to this question [of why the West was winning]. To preach a return to authentic, pristine Islam was one thing; to seek the answer in Christian ways or ideas was another - and, according to the notions of the time, self-evidently absurd. Muslims were accustomed to regard Christianity as an earlier, corrupted version of the true faith of which Islam was the final perfection. One does not go forward by going backward. There must therefore be some circumstance other than religion...to account for the otherwise unaccountable superiority achieved by the Western world. A Westerner at the time - and many Muslims at the present day - might suggest science and the philosophy that sustains it. This view would not have occurred to those for whom philosophy was the handmaiden of theology, and science merely a collection of pieces of knowledge and of devices (pp. 45-46).*

These issues seem less irrelevant when we realize that the West is currently attempting to restrain Iran from acquiring its own nuclear weapon material. Also, recently it has been disclosed that Pakistan seems to be building a large reactor with which it could multiply its weapons grade plutonium source. These are examples of Muslim countries seeking to catch up, to be able to meet the West's level of weapons technology. It can be seen from the examples above that military might is the primary reason for acquiring modern technology.

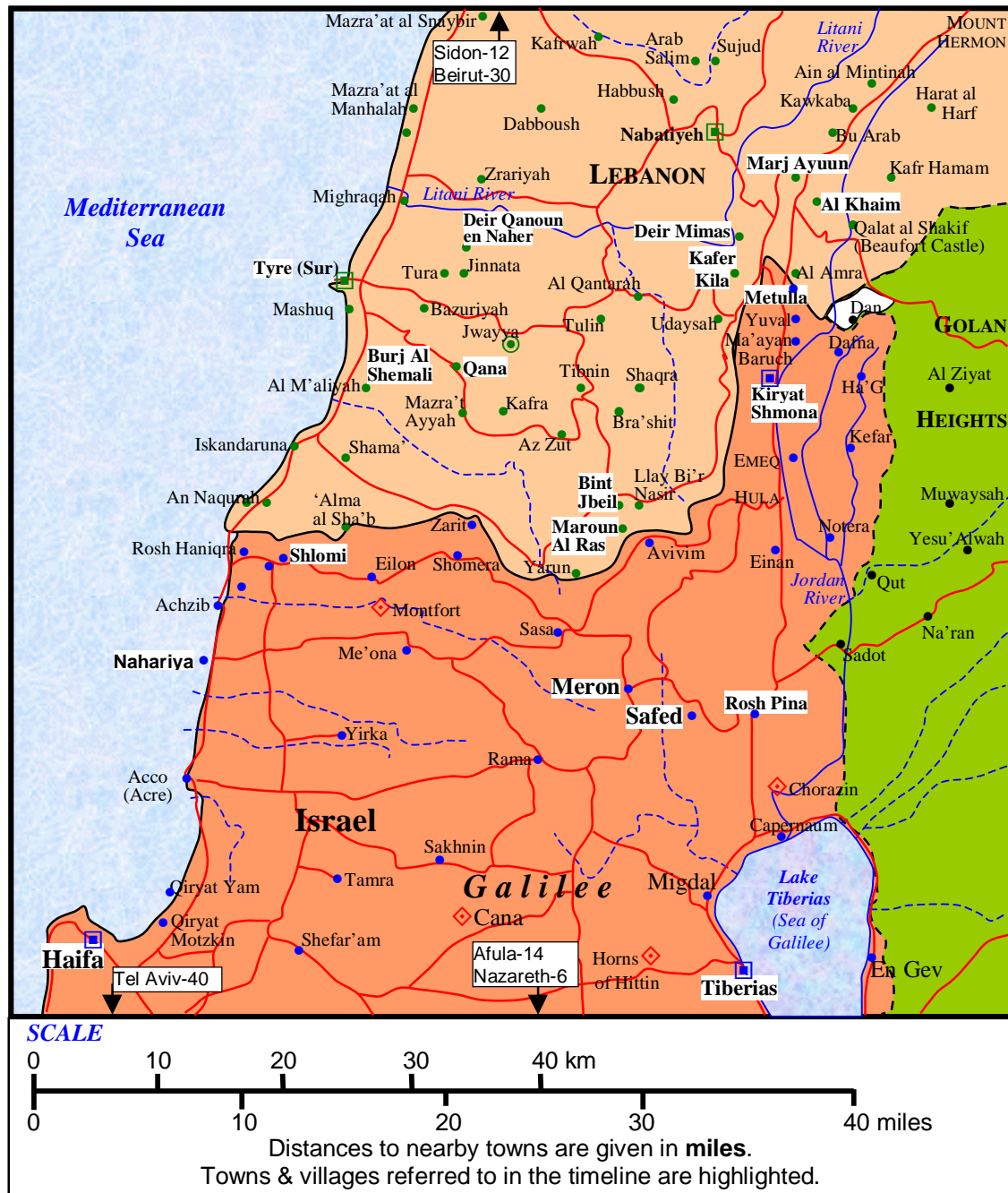
A few years ago, perhaps in 2002, I read an article by Muhammad Mahathir, then Prime Minister of Malaysia. The bulk of the article was encouraging Muslim countries to improve their methods of education, even their structure of society, and seek to develop their own new technologies, instead of always having to play catch-up. The purpose, so that Islam may have better weapons than the West.

### Israel in Lebanon

The Israel-Lebanon border has been the scene of much of the recent conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. This map shows the towns close to the border on either side. Also shown are some of the villages within the Golan Heights, part of Syrian territory but occupied by Israel since 1973.

At the northern tip of Israel, the area in white indicates the Shebaa Farms area, which has been an item in dispute between Syria, Lebanon and Israel. Shebaa Farms itself is located between Dan and the Lebanese border.

This map is designed to be used alongside the timeline of the Israeli action against Hezbollah, updated frequently, and available from the website [www.morethantourists.com](http://www.morethantourists.com) & click e-NEWS.



Recently the Red Cross approved the use of separate logos for the organization in Israel. The Red Crescent has been in operation for a number of years. These ambulances were recently seen and photographed as they were about to be loaded onto a cargo ship not very far from home - in the Port of Houston. As'af, "ambulance" is written in Arabic, right to left.



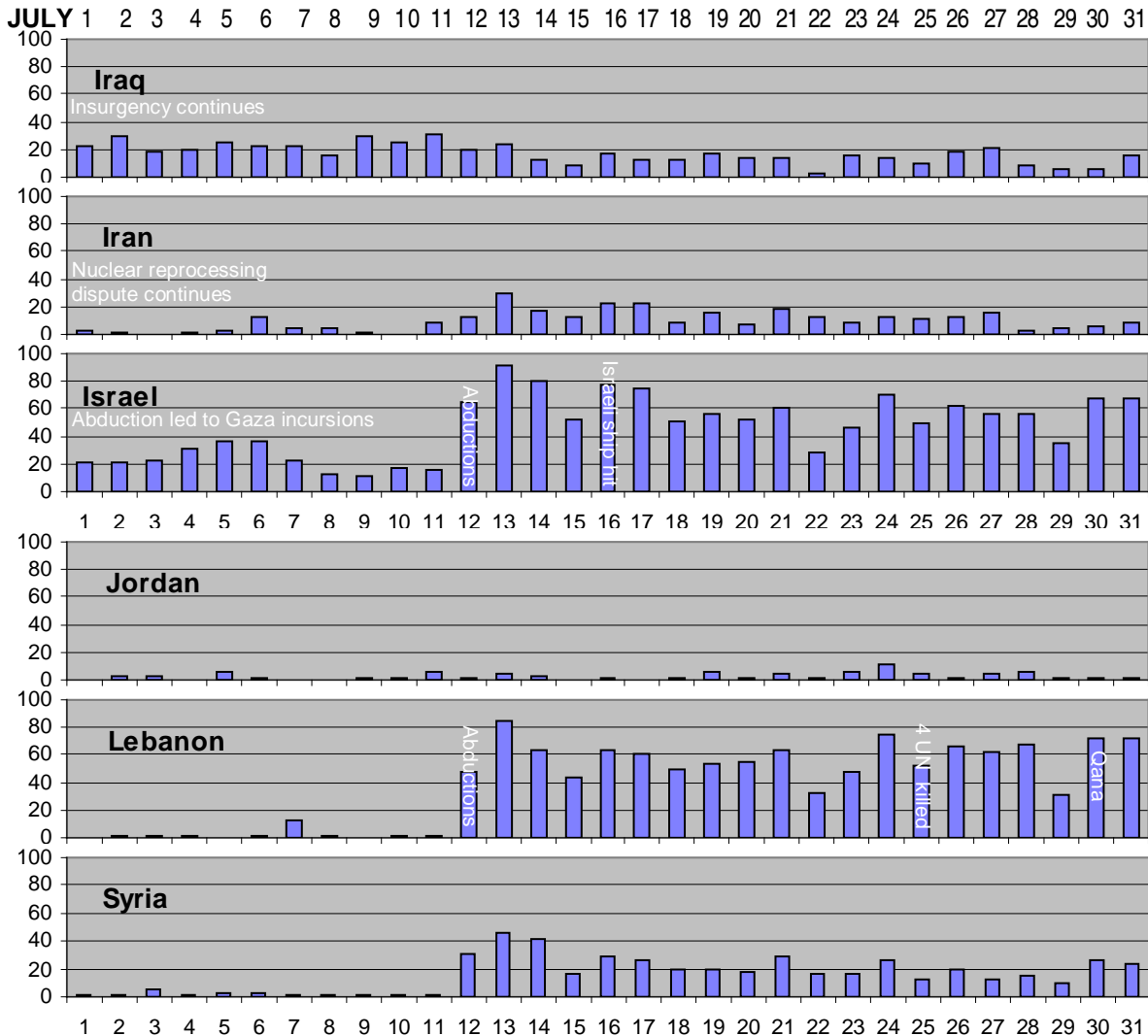
Counting on the News

Since the middle of June I have kept a log of the number of news reports that have related to the countries in the Middle East. I originally thought it was for my own private amusement, but the graphs that emerge are an interesting reflection of the trouble in the coastal strip - sometimes still called the *Levant* - of the eastern Mediterranean.

During late June the Iraq insurgency was continuing, with the violence increasing, though the news reports were steady at about 20-30 per day. In late June the abduction into Gaza by Hamas, of Gilad Shalit, a 19-year-old IDF reservist, dramatically increased the level of reporting from that Israel, with between 20 and 40 reports most days.

As we move into July the incidence of reports from Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria are minimal, but there is a dramatic change on July 12<sup>th</sup>, when two IDF soldiers are abducted in a carefully planned operation by Hezbollah that required them to break through a border fence. Three were also killed, and another later died of his injuries. The immediate response, an attempt by Israeli troops to retrieve their comrades, led to an ambush in which another 4 were killed by Hezbollah.

Previously, news reports from Iran focused on the nuclear reprocessing issue. Many of the additional news reports that relate to Iran are a result of the country being mentioned in the report, rather than any action initiated by Iran itself, though there have been some comments by the president, Ahmedinejad. Syria, as the graph shows, is more significantly involved in the conflict. In fact, recent reports claim that Syria was responsible for shooting down the Israeli drone on Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>.



Statue of Ibn Khaldoun on Avenue Habib Bourguiba, Tunis.

This Month

| July  | 1 | 2   | 3                                     | 4 | 5 | 6                    | 7 | 8 | 9   | 10                                     | 11  | 12 | 13 | 14   | 15   | 16  | 17 | 18 | 19  | 20  | 21   | 22 | 23 | 24  | 25                                     | 26                           | 27 | 28 | 29                                    | 30 | 31 |  |  |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|----------------------|---|---|---|--|---|----|----|--|--|---|----|----|---|---|--|----|----|---|--|------------------------------|----|----|---------------------------------------|----|----|--|--|
|   | S | S   | M                                     | T | W | T                    | F | S | S   | M                                      | T   | W  | T  | F  | S  | S   | M  | T  | W   | T   | F  | S  | S  | M   | T                                      | W                            | T  | F  | S                                     | S  | M  |  |  |
| <b>Africa</b>   |   |   | Sudan refuses UN force in Darfur      |   |   |                      |   |   |   |  | Fighting in Somalia-60 killed                 |    |    |  |  | Somali government boycotts talks with Islamist movement |    |    |   |   | Somali Govt. minister shot dead                  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   |   | Darfur rebels attack town E of Darfur |   |   |                      |   |   |   |  | SLA infighting in Darfur-8,000 die this month |    |    |  |  | Ethiopian troops threaten Somali Islamist rebels        |    |    |   |   | Sudan army attacks Darfur towns                  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   |   | Gunmen kill 5 nr Juba                 |   |   |                      |   |   |   |  | Aid worker killed in N Darfur                 |    |    |  |  |   |    |    |   |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
| <b>Asia</b>   |   |   |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   |   |  | Azer-Turk Caspian oil pipeline opens          |    |    |  |  |   |    |    |   |   | Thailand teacher shot in class, Islamists blamed |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
| <b>Pakistan</b>   |   |   | Bomb kills 6 commandos in NW          |   |   |                      |   |   |   | Air crash kills 45                     |   |    |    |  | Suicide bomb kills Shiite cleric Turabi            |   |    |    |   | 200 Taliban arrested in Quetta raids      |  |    |    |   | Mudslides kill 40+ earthquake refugees |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   |   | Army kills 25 rebels in Baluchistan   |   |   |                      |   |   |   | Bombay bombs kill 179                  |   |    |    |  | 600 rebels lay down arms in pact                   |   |    |    |   | Tribal Jirgas discuss peace in Waziristan |  |    |    |   | Bomb hits troops convoy-soldier killed |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
| <b>Afghan.</b>  |   |   | 20 Taliban killed in ambush attempt   |   |   |                      |   |   |   | UK troops attack base-40 rebels killed |   |    |    |  | Heavy fighting with US in Uruzgan prov.            |   |    |    |   |   |  |    |    |   | 5.5 quake hits NE Afghanistan          |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   |   | 4 Afghans from US base killed         |   |   |                      |   |   |   | US troops kill 30 Taliban in Helmand   |   |    |    |  | Drought & violence cause villagers to flee Helmand |   |    |    |   |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
| <b>Arabia</b>   |   |   | Qaeda reject renewed amnesty offer    |   |   |                      |   |   |   | Saudi criticizes Hezbollah             |   |    |    |  |  |   |    |    |   |   |  |    |    |   | Shia in Saudi protest Israeli attacks  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
| <b>Iraq</b>   |   | Sunni woman MP kidnapped  |                                       |   |   | 3 US killed in Anbar |   |   |   |  | Balad Ruz-Mortars hit Shia mosque             |    |    |  |  | US marine killed in Anbar prov.                         |    |    |   |   |  |    |    |   |  | 2 shootings at Sunni mosques |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
| <b>US Deaths:</b><br>3/30: 2,317<br>5/31: 2,459<br>7/24: 2,565<br>7/31: 2,578 |   | Gunmen warn Kirkuk police to quit   |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | Shia gunmen kill 42+ in rampage   |  |   |    |    | Olympic committee meeting raided, members abducted   |  |   |    |    | Home bombed by US, killing 2 insurgents, 2 women, child           |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    | 4 US marines killed in Anbar province |    |    |  |  |
|   |   | Attempted kidnap of Shia woman MP   |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | Bombs at Shia mosque-17 die   |  |   |    |    | Gunmen free 13 prisoners from Baquba hospital, 4 killed  |  |   |    |    | Maliki leads peace plan initiative                                |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    | Sistani calls for Lebanon ceasefire   |    |    |  |  |
|   |   | Clashes with insurgents in Sunni Adhamiya-7 4 US soldiers charged in rape case  |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | Diyala council member killed  |  |   |    |    | Mehdi army leader arrested in Basra, 1UK soldier killed  |  |   |    |    | Car bomb kills 9 in Shia suburb                                   |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    | 25 kidnapped from business            |    |    |  |  |
|   |   | Gunmen kill 3 in Najaf brothel  |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | Car bomb at Kirkuk PUK offices-3 die  |  |   |    |    | Suicide bomb in café kills 13  |  |   |    |    | Kirkuk courthouse car bomb kills 20                               |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   | 450 men of village held for questioning   |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | Shia/Sunnis clash in mosque attack  |  |   |    |    | Mortar attack on UK Basra base   |  |   |    |    | Japanese troops return home                                       |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   | Oil production 2.5/export 1.9bbl/day  |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | 3 bombs kill 5 nr Green Zone  |  |   |    |    | Gunmen kill 15 in Mahmudiya market   |  |   |    |    | Series of militant leaders arrested across Iraq                   |   |  |    |    | Car bomb & mortars kill 27 in Baghdad         |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   | Dep. Electric minister abducted, escapes  |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | Attack on contractor's office-8 die   |  |   |    |    | Suicide bomb kills 59 day laborers   |  |   |    |    | 4 US marines killed in Anbar                                      |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   | Ramadi hospital raided to seek insurgents   |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | Suicide bomb at Mosul health clinic   |  |   |    |    | 20 bus drivers abducted, killed  |  |   |    |    | City council bomb-6 die   |   |  |    |    | Iran accused of shelling Kurds in N Iraq      |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   | 2 bombs in Kirkuk, Peshmerga killed   |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | City council bomb-6 die   |  |   |    |    | Gunmen kill 12 at Kirkuk base  |  |   |    |    | 19 Sunni mosque workers abducted                                  |   |  |    |    | Al Hakim calls to disband militias            |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   | Car bomb kills 12 Shia in Najaf   |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | Gunmen kill 12 at Kirkuk base   |  |   |    |    | 19 Sunni mosque workers abducted   |  |   |    |    | Mortar kills 4 at mosque in S Baghdad                             |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   | E Baghdad market car bomb kills 62 Shia   |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | Baquba mosque bombed-7 hurt   |  |   |    |    | Police patrol attacked-5 die   |  |   |    |    | US/Iraqi forces raid Al Qaeda towns nr Kirkuk                     |   |  |    |    | Mortar kills 4 at mosque in S Baghdad         |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   | Troops kill 9 in battle w/ Mehdi militia  |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | Bomb at Baghdad Sunni mosque  |  |   |    |    | Iran accused of shelling Kurds in N Iraq   |  |   |    |    | 33 insurgents killed in Musayib battle                            |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   | Saddam hunger strike  |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | receives counseling-  |  |   |    |    | fed through tube   |  |   |    |    | appears (& eats) at trial   |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
| <b>Iran</b>   |   | US wants Iran to respond to nuclear deal by 7/12  |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | Israeli ship hit-Iran missile suspected   |  |   |    |    | Iran FM visits Syria for talks   |  |   |    |    | Iran prevent students joining Hezbollah                           |   |  |    |    | UN sets Nuclear deadline for Aug. 31          |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
| <b>Turkey</b>   |   | Flooding kills 9 in NE  |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | 3 PKK Kurds killed near Iraq border   |  |   |    |    | PKK rebels kill 7 soldiers in SE   |  |   |    |    | PKK mine kills soldier, injures 2                                 |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   |   |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | PKK rebels kill 2 Turkish policemen   |  |   |    |    | 2 PKK killed in military raid  |  |   |    |    | Explosion at barracks in Van prov.                                |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
| <b>Lebanon</b>  |   |   |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   |   |  |   |    |    |  |  |   |    |    |   |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   |   |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   |   |  |   |    |    |  |  |   |    |    |   |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
| <b>Jordan</b>   |   | Saddam daughter is 'guest' of royal family  |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | Govt. takes control of Islamist charity   |  |   |    |    | Islamists on trial for visiting Zarfawi family   |  |   |    |    | Jordan to crack down on those supporting Iraq insurgency          |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
| <b>Egypt</b>  |   |   |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   |   |  |   |    |    |  |  |   |    |    |   |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
| <b>Israel</b>   |   | Israeli raid on WB police post-3 held for settler death   |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | Israel responds to Hezbollah raid with naval blockade, air strikes against Hezbollah & strategic targets (See page 1) |  |   |    |    | IDF raid on Palestinian security in Nablus kills 5 militants, 2 PNA buildings demolished, 12 arrested  |  |   |    |    | Settler killed by militant (hitch-hiker dressed as religious Jew) |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   | Dual conflicts break out after abductions: Jenin: IDF kill 1 planting bomb border (by Hamas), & Lebanon border (Hezbollah) WB militant shot during arrest raid in Jericho |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | 10 arrested in WB sweep   |  |   |    |    | Nurse shot dead while treating wounded in Nablus   |  |   |    |    | 2 on suicide mission detained in Tel Aviv                         |   |  |    |    | Sharon condition worsens                      |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   | Israel incursion into Gaza (after 6/25) followed strikes on Hezbollah targets in Lebanon (7/12)   |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | 2 killed in Jenin raid  |  |   |    |    |  |  |   |    |    |   |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
| <b>WB &amp; Gaza</b>  |   | Abbas postpones referendum on statehood   |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | Some workers to get ½ month's wage  |  |   |    |    | To keep up to date with the Israeli actions in Gaza go to <a href="http://www.morethantourists.com">www.morethantourists.com</a> and click on e-NEWS |  |   |    |    | Workers receive partial (\$330, 1/2 of Aprils') wages             |   |  |    |    | EU pays some health workers salaries directly |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
|   |   | Crisis over Hamas refusal to recognize Israel, funding for PNA ceases, workers unpaid. EU attempts to negotiate an aid approach.  |                                       |   |   |                      |   |   | 2 Palestinians die at closed Egypt border   |  |   |    |    |  |  |   |    |    |   |   |  |    |    |   |  |                              |    |    |                                       |    |    |  |  |
| July  | 1 | 2   | 3                                     | 4 | 5 | 6                    | 7 | 8 | 9   | 10                                     | 11  | 12 | 13 | 14   | 15   | 16  | 17 | 18 | 19  | 20  | 21   | 22 | 23 | 24  | 25                                     | 26                           | 27 | 28 | 29                                    | 30 | 31 |  |  |
|   | S | S   | M                                     | T | W | T                    | F | S | S   | M                                      | T   | W  | T  | F  | S  | S   | M  | T  | W   | T   | F  | S  | S  | M   | T                                      | W                            | T  | F  | S                                     | S  | M  |  |  |