

Naharnet / NNA News Jan. 30-31, 2009

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 Sunday, 01 February 2009
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Lebanese embassies and consulates overseas received a lot of complaints from Lebanese immigrants demanding passports allowing them to return this spring and participate in the country's legislative elections

Live Coverage 1-31-2009 12:31pm Khalil's bill also suggested the cancellation of decrees issued for the establishment of the Council for Reconstruction and Development, Council for the South, Funds for Displaced Lebanese and the Higher Relief Commission.

12:30pm Speaker Berri referred to the Administrative and Justice Committee a bill proposed by MP Ali Hasan Khalil seeking the creation of a ministry of planning.

12:00pm FM Fawzi Salloukh received a letter from his Egyptian counterpart via the Egyptian ambassador about the agreement for the establishment of the Arab Women Organization.

9:18am Adwan: I urge the Lebanese Forces to place itself at the disposal of the government if it were involved in one way or the other in the issue of the missing Iranians.

9:17am MP George Adwan to VDL: I call on Lebanese authorities to say what they know about the issue of the four missing Iranian diplomats.

Saturday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

23:29 AFP : Kenyan police have arrested George Obama, half- brother of U.S. President Barack Obama because of possession of drugs (cannabis or hashishHe was arrested with four other people and will appear before the court Monday, according to Kenyan police . George was described as "a painful issue, in president Obama's memoires

23:20 Mohammed Ahmed Hussein, secretary general of the outlawed Egyptian Islamic Action party was arrested in Rafah as he was trying to return to Egypt . He faces charges of illegally crossing into the Palestinian territories, according to a security source.

22:29 Obama's envoy George Mitchell is in Riyadh which is the last leg in his ME trip

22:25 Al Arabiya: Hamas has accepted the French initiative for a truce with Israel

21:45 Egypt installs cameras at the Rafah crossing to prevent smuggling of weapons into Gaza

21:12 Palestinian president Abbas postpones his trip to Europe and heads to Egypt

20:35 Siniora contacted Turkish PM Erdogan to commend him on his position at Davos conference

20:00 Foreign Policy posts: former Defense Secretary William Perry and a group of high-level U.S. nuclear nonproliferation specialists and U.S. experts on Iran held a series of meetings in European cities with Iranian officials under the auspices of the Pugwash group. Perry served as a member of the Obama campaign's national security working group.

19:15 MP Jisr: the attacks against the Egyptian regime get us nowhere ... the attacks should be directed at Israel and not Egypt. (This was in reference to Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah attacks against Egypt and Egyptian response calling Nasrallah an Iranian agent)

18: 50 Former president Mohammed Khatemi has withdrawn his candidacy in the upcoming presidential elections in favor of former PM Mir Hussein Mousawi

18:43 MP Harb: Hezbollah is not ready to seriously discuss the issue of strategic defense . He added " The FPM wants a president that obeys its orders and Hezbollah wants a president that adopts its strategic defense strategy

18:37 President Suleiman issued a decree appointing Justice karkabi a member of the Supreme court

18:27 Fatah accuses Iran and Syria and Qatar of blocking the Palestinian reconciliation efforts

18:10 MP Antione Zahra : Those attacking the Lebanese Forces daily will find themselves losing public support because they are being seen as mistreating the Lebanese Christians

17:52 Iran discloses its secret to the free world : "The Islamic revolution is no longer restricted to the inside of our borders"

16:56 Jordan told Mitchell: There is no new peace plan and we say yes to the 2 state solution , Palestine and Israel

16:35 Hamas is for confirming a truce on the condition that the crossings should be opened and the Israeli aggression stopped

16:28 Tehran: The call for dialogue by the Americans means the collapse of capitalism

16:28 : Former PM Omar Karami received a delegation representing the family of Yehya Skaf who is imprisoned in Israel. The family is to hold a press conference tomorrow on the issue with the attendance of the family of Dalal al-Mughrabi.

16:23 Assad: I am for a positive dialogue with the US

16:03 Alloush : The shutting down of the parliament for over a year raises questions about the speakership

12:30 Speaker Berri referred to the Administrative and Justice Committee a bill proposed by MP Ali Hasan Khalil seeking the creation of a ministry of planning. The bill also suggested the cancellation of decrees issued for the establishment of the Council for Reconstruction and Development, Council for the South, Funds for Displaced Lebanese and the Higher Relief Commission.

12:00 FM Fawzi Salloukh received a letter from his Egyptian counterpart via the Egyptian ambassador about the

agreement for the establishment of the Arab Women Organization.

10:51 Change and Reform bloc MP Ibrahim Kanaan told LBC: "President Michel Suleiman should carry a political role, but in reality he is not." He added "Our electoral campaigns have started and some of the alliances were already defined,"

09:45 A rocket fired by Palestinian militants from north Gaza exploded near the city of Ashkelon in southern Israel on Saturday, but no casualties or damages were reported, according to the Israeli army. This is the third rocket fired since ceasefires on January 18 ended Israel's three-week onslaught against Hamas-ruled Gaza which left more than 1,330 Palestinians dead and 5300 wounded, mostly civilians

9:18 MP George Adwan told VDL: I call on Lebanese authorities to say what they know about the issue of the four missing Iranian diplomats and I urge the Lebanese Forces to place itself at the disposal of the government if it were involved in one way or the other in the issue of the missing Iranians. He questioned why Hezbollah, not Iran, raised diplomat kidnapping issue

09:07 National Liberal Party leader Dori Chamoun told Free Lebanon radio Saturday that the national dialogue would not achieve any progress as long as illegitimate arms remained in Lebanese territory. Alluding to Hezbollah arms and those in the hands of pro-Syrian Palestinian arms outside the refugee camps

Live Coverage 1-30-2009 6:29pm Cabinet meeting begins in Baabda and chaired by President Suleiman

4:40pm President Michel Suleiman discussed with the visiting U.S. Congressional delegation developments in Lebanon and the region.

4:05pm a 13-member U.S. Congressional delegation arrived in Lebanon for talks with Lebanese officials.

2:30pm Egypt accused Hizbullah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah of being an Iranian agent and taking orders from Tehran.

12:37pm Geagea: We are ready to help in any issue that security and judicial authorities inquire about.

12:36pm Geagea: We have no elections influence in Hizbullah areas but the Shiite party is fighting its allies' battle.

12:35pm Geagea: I could say that I have to link to the case of the 4 diplomats but I decided not to reply to questions about incidents during the war unless the case is officially dealt with.

12:30pm Geagea: Bringing up the issue of the 4 diplomats comes as part of campaigns that remind people about the status of some LF officials during the civil war.

12:28pm Geagea: I would have hoped that our foes would retaliate through political means and not accusations of being the enemy's traitors.

12:25pm The LF leader: The security apparatuses asked me to take measures because information reveals that the other side might resort to security means to hinder or change the course of the elections.

12:20pm We regret that Nasrallah brought up the issue now and accused the LF of involvement in the disappearance of the diplomats after 27 years.

12:19pm Geagea: Taking advantage of the situation and accusing the LF of involvement ahead of the elections is understandable but is not acceptable.

12:18pm Geagea: Did he think to ask the authorities to investigate the issue of Iranians? Is it now that he remembered the 4 diplomats?

12:12pm Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea during a press conference: Who could explain Hizbullah leader Sayyed Nasrallah's interest in Iranian diplomats who have disappeared 27 years ago?

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12:12pm Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea during a press conference: Who could explain Hizbullah leader Sayyed Nasrallah's interest in Iranian diplomats who have disappeared 27 years ago?

11:20am Families of missing detainees in Syria delivered a letter to PM Fouad Saniora asking for a clear mechanism to deal with their issue.

8:20am Cabinet Minister Ibrahim Najjar to VDL: We would discuss the creation of a Ministry of Planning when a new Cabinet is formed.

7:35am Cabinet Minister Khaled Qabbani to VDL: I believe state budget will be approved. A solution to the crisis seems to be in the offing; and we will reach a solution at Cabinet meeting tonight.

Friday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

00:00 The Lebanese army command revealed that its intelligence unit has arrested an armed robbery gang which admitted to the murder of an Arab citizen after kidnapping him. The army command also revealed that it seized a quantity of light weapons and ammunition that was held by the detainees, who surrendered pending further investigation by the judicial authorities

23:23 The minister of Defense Elias Murr discussed with the visiting US congressional delegation the situation in Lebanon and the region

22:02 At cabinet meeting, president Suleiman praises Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan 's walkout of World Economic Forum conference at Davos conference ; the cabinet agreed to schedule a meeting to review allegations of wiretapping leveled against the Telecommunications Ministry, and postponed for 10 days discussion of a request for 60 billion LL in funding for the Council of the South

20:40 Cabinet meeting ended. The debate over the request for 60 billion LL in funding for Council of the South was postponed for 10 days

19:00 Osama Hamdan , Hamas representative urged President Mahmoud Abbas' Palestinian Authority to "halt coordination with the Israeli enemy." Hamdan also said Hamas wants the PA to "launch intra-Palestinian dialogue based on adopting the resistance agenda as a strategy." Hamas was celebrating victory in the Gaza war. In the 22 day war 1300 Palestinians were killed (Half of them civilians) and 5350 were injured against 10 Israeli soldiers and 3 civilians killed

18:29 Cabinet meeting begins in Baabda and chaired by President Suleiman

18:00 PM Siniora accused unnamed factions of practicing a "policy of blackmail" by attacking him and accusing him of holding due compensations for the Council of the South. This was in reference to Hezbollah and Amal 's threat of veto against the budget approval in the event the council does not receive the demanded amount

16:40 President Michel Suleiman discussed with the visiting U.S. Congressional delegation developments in Lebanon and the region.

16:34 Turkish leader makes waves by storming out Davos economic forum on Thursday ; Haaretz report that "Turkey is expected to receive its first shipment of attack drones from Israel next month. Turkey is also expected to receive another shipment of Heron drones from Israel "

16:05 a 13-member U.S. Congressional delegation arrived in Lebanon for talks with Lebanese officials.

14:30 Egypt on Friday accused Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah of being an "agent of Iran," and taking orders from Iran

12:59 Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee, LAF clarify Nahr al-Bared reconstruction queries

12:17 Netanyahu refuses to be "bound" by Olmert's promise to evacuate West Bank settlements

12:12 Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea said during a press conference in response to Nasrallah's speech: Who could explain Hezbollah leader Sayyed Nasrallah's interest in Iranian diplomats who have disappeared 27 years ago? Is it now that he remembered the 4 diplomats? Bringing up the issue of the 4 diplomats comes as part of campaigns that to remind people about the civil war. We are ready to help in any issue that security and judicial authorities inquire about.

11:44 Change and Reform bloc MP Hagop Pakradounian told OTV that he hopes that dialogue sessions would continue till elections day

11:22 Interior Minister Ziad Baroud extends deadline of accepting applications for voter IDs until end of February

11:20 Families of missing detainees in Syria delivered a letter to PM Fouad Siniora asking for a clear mechanism to deal with their issue.

11:11 Change and Reform bloc MP Nabil Nicolas told ANB : the Information Branch had no authority to intervene in the wiretapping controversy, which was brought to the forefront by MP Walid Jumblatt ten days ago

10:55 Change and Reform bloc MP Salim Aoun told New TV: We face problems because MP Aoun rejects division of shares

10:48 Minister of Industry Ghazi Zeaiter told NBN: Hezbollah and Amal do not need new electoral support in South

10:35 Minister of Tourism Elie Marouni told LBC that upcoming elections are decisive. He confirmed his candidacy in Zahle with the Kataeb Party

8:20 Justice Minister Ibrahim Najjar told VOL: We would discuss the creation of a Ministry of Planning when a new Cabinet is formed.

7:35 Minister Khaled Qabbani to VDL: I believe state budget will be approved. A solution to the crisis seems to be in the offing; and we will reach a solution at Cabinet meeting tonight.

2:11 The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries confirmed the support of the Gulf countries for the position of taken by the United Arab Emirates with regards to its sovereignty over its three islands, Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, which are occupied by Iran.

1:58 Baghdad refuses to renew the contract of the American Blackwater company

1:43 Kuwaiti El Seyasseh : There is a quiet dispute taking place between Amal and Hezbollah over the funds for the south council

1:39 Amal and Hezbollah want to protest against the government to put pressure over the allocations for the south council but were suprized by the cool reaction of their allies

1:33 Aoun is worried over the visit by Minister Murr to Syria . He is concerned about any change in Syria's commitment towards his election campaign

1:13 Kuwaiti El Seyasseh : Hezbollah is eriously considering the candidacy of detained General Jamil Sayyed for parliament and wants to put his name on the Baalbeck electoral list

0:50 a former March 14 minister revealed to Kuwaiti El Seyasseh that the council that between 1988 and 2003 the south council has received from the Lebanese government 1460 billion LL , most of the money was used to line up the pockets of Hezbollah and Amal officials and very little of it filtered down to the people of south Lebanon

Naharnet News

New Militant Group in Ain el-Hilweh Reportedly Plans to Target Egyptian Embassy
Sfeir Advises Lebanese to Choose Most Efficient Candidates without Intimidation
Iran: Israel is Responsible For the Fate of Our Missing Diplomats
 Hamas Rivals in Lebanon Slam Meshaal Over Call for New PLO
Poland May Withdraw Troops from Lebanon to Cut Costs
Tribunal Registrar: We Will be 'Up to Par' on March 1
Harb: Hizbullah Not Ready for Serious Dialogue and Awaits Election Results
Lebanese Immigrants Complain, Demand Right to Participate in Elections
Kanaan: We Are Allied With the Tashnag, Rest of Our Alliances Would Take Time
Jumblat: Only Solution to Lebanon is Centrist Bloc, No Compromise with Syria
Sayed Sues Those who Criticized Possibility That he May Run in Elections
 Hamas-Run Al Aqsa TV to Begin Broadcasting from Beirut
Berri Refers Bill Proposing Creation of Planning Ministry
Budget Session Postponed as Berri Now Demands More Funds for South Council
Baroud Urges 21-Year-Olds to Collect I.D. Cards Ahead of Elections
State Budget Stumbles
State Budget Battle Heats Up Raising Specter of Crisis
Nicola Accuses Police - Information Division of Violating Wiretap Law, Department Denies Court Tries UNIFIL Attackers, Qaida Smugglers
Hizbullah Won't Give Up Revenge of Mughniyeh Death, Israeli Source
Netanyahu Wants to 'Neutralize' Iran to Reduce Hizbullah Threat
Cabinet Decreases Cell Fees
Qantar Honored by Ahmadinejad