

Naharnet / NNA News Feb. 1-5, 2009

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Thursday, 05 February 2009

The Israeli navy on Thursday boarded a Gaza-bound Lebanese aid boat at sea and was escorting it to the Israeli port of Ashdod, Defence Minister Ehud Barak said

Live Coverage 2-05-2009 1:00pm An Israeli army patrol crossed the electronic fence into the southern Lebanese border town of Blida and searched the area for more than 50 minutes.

12:50pm The Israeli army is towing the "Brotherhood Ship" to the port of Ashdod to question its passengers.

11:20am: Military Command: Published photos of rockets found near Naqoura on February 4th are not genuine.

11:05am: Parliamentary media and Communications Committee begins discussions on the issue of wiretapping.

11:00am: OTV: Contact with "Brotherhood Ship" is cut.

10:50am: al-Jazeera: Israeli soldiers climb into the Lebanese "Brotherhood Ship" and beat up its crew.

10:45am: Israeli warships opened fire on the "Brotherhood Ship" following its entry into Palestinian territorial waters.

10:06am Al-Jazeera: The Lebanese "Brotherhood Ship" entered Egyptian territorial waters on its way to Gaza.

8:55am Minister Jean Oghassabian to VDL: The main issue that would be discussed during the Media and Communications committee meeting is that of illegal wiretapping because it is linked to previous assassinations.

7:45am Al-Jazeera: Israeli gunships threatened to target the Lebanese "Brotherhood Ship";

7:15am MP Samir Franjeh to VDL: The majority will ask during Wednesday's Media and Communications committee meeting for the formation of a parliamentary investigative committee to probe wiretapping.

Thursday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

04:32 Amnesty International has revealed that the Syrian police has arrested 10 Syrian political activists in Deir el Zour near the Iraqi Syrian borders and one of those arrested, Mohammed Amin al-Shawa, died in custody in January 2009. In a statement Amnesty International stated that the detainees were: 1- A man named Nabil, aged 49 years who works in the field of communications 2- Abdul Hadi Salameh, a university student 3- Bilal Sufyan 4- Eyad Hussein 5- Hamad Taha 6- Thabet al Hassan 7- Abdul Razzaq 8- Mansour al-Atrash 9- Khaldoun Mohammed, 10 - Mohammed Amin Shawa, 42-year-old who was a math teacher.

04:29 Former MP and presidential adviser Nazem Khoury told Future TV that he intends to be a candidate in the parliamentary elections in Jubeil district

04:06 The British Council announced the suspension of its activities in the Iranian capital Tehran in protest against the harassment some of its personnel have been subjected to by the Iranian authorities.

03:27 Russia has delivered a new arms shipment to Iran including S-300 anti aircraft missiles

03:06 El Seyassah has revealed that a meeting was held at the home of deputy speaker Farid Makari in Paris between MP Saad Hariri and former PM Najib Mikati to discuss the possibility of an alliance in the Tripoli elections

03:01 El Seyassah has revealed that former PM Omar Karami may receive an invitation to visit Saudi Arabia and that the king will meet him during his visit

2:42 Qatar invited Turkey to participate in the conference for the reconstruction of Gaza

2:34 the United Nations retreated from its accusation against Israel over the bombing of UNRWA school in Gaza

2:28 El Seyassah has learnt that MP Jumblatt and Minister of Youth and Sport Talal Arslan are in agreement to use maximum pressure to keep Wiam Wahab away from nomination in Baabda district.

2:26 Free Shiite Movement: The Syrian regime ordered fatal al Intifada to escalate violence in Lebanon

2:12 There is reportedly an Iranian plan to take control of Lebanon after the elections, led by Hezbollah

2:03 A political source in Paris has reportedly confirmed to El Seyasseh that there are many Lebanese detainees in Iranian prisons that Syrian intelligence kidnapped in Lebanon during the occupation and sent them to jails in Syria, but were later relocated to Tehran, Iran

1:50 MP Marwan Hamadeh will reportedly demand during Thursday's meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Communications that MP Hassan Fadlallah should step down from the chairmanship of the Committee.

1:45 Port workers in South Africa refused to unload the cargo of Israeli ships in solidarity with the Palestinians

1:07 Russia renews its opposition to additional sanctions against Iran

0:48 The Egyptian authorities refused to allow al Jazeera team to enter Gaza via Rafah crossing

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Live Coverage 2-04-2009 8:00pm MP Camille Khoury to al-Manar TV: MP Michel Aoun has expressed willingness to accept minister Elias Murr on his Metn election list, but MP Michel Murr chose to run for elections and reshuffled the cards.

7:00 New TV: Israeli troops intercepted the Lebanese "Brotherhood Ship" that sailed toward Gaza carrying activists and supplies.

6:47pm A security source told VDL that the Katyusha rockets were not set to be fired into Israel.

6:32pm VDL: Security forces reopened the Saloumi-Sin el-Fil highway after the briefcase turned out to be harmless.

6:21pm VDL: Security forces closed the Saloumi-Sin el-Fil highway for traffic after a suspicious briefcase was discovered.

6:20pm VDL: Five Katyusha rockets were found in Wadi Hamoul near the Lebanese border town of Naqoura.

4:45pm Interior Minister Ziad Baroud announced the launch of a new bimonthly newsletter exclusively devoted to parliamentary elections.

4:00pm The General Secretariat of the Arab Journalists' Federation assigned the first vice-president of the union Melhem Karam to head the federation until its president Ibrahim Nafeh has fully recovered from illness.

3:47pm Public offices and government institutions as well as municipalities will close on Monday, Feb. 9 on the occasion of St. Maroun Day. Lebanese newspapers will not come out on Tuesday, Feb. 10.

3:18pm The Administration and Justice parliamentary committee will hold a meeting on Feb. 16 to examine a draft law on the establishment of a Planning Ministry.

3:00pm March 14 Forces reiterated its call for a massive turnout to commemorate the anniversary of the assassination of Premier Rafik Hariri.

2:50 MP Michel Murr declared he would compete in the forthcoming parliamentary elections as leader of the independent-moderate Christian list.

2:05pm The LF leader: I wish PM Saniora would propose voting on the state budget. I ask Change and Reform ministers if they would abstain from voting in case the budget did not include a demand for 60 Billion LL for the Council for the South.

2:04pm Geagea: We are with the cancellation of all councils and with the draft law suggested by MP Ali Hassan Khalil.

2:00pm Geagea: The Council for the South is a state on its own.

1:59pm Geagea: If the issue of the Displaced Fund was brought up I would say the same thing but what is being discussed now is the Council for the South.

1:58pm Geagea: After liberation of the south it was agreed that 300 billion pounds are needed to settle all compensations and the cabinet started settling the account as of 2005.

1:57pm Geagea: The Council for the South was set up to compensate southerners during Israel's occupation before 2000.

1:54pm Geagea: The way the issue of the Council for the South is being dealt with is not acceptable.

1:51pm The LF leader: I usually talk to politicians like Hariri, Nassib Lahoud and Gemayel and a few days later I see the content of the conversations printed in al-Akhbar and as-Safir dailies.

1:44pm Geagea said: MP Antoine Ghanem wouldn't have been killed if there was no wiretapping.

1:37pm Geagea: the problem between me and LBC Chairman Pierre Daher is not personal.

1:36pm Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea during a press conference: I wish many journalists and politicians would act the same way May Chidiac did.

1:30pm The army's intelligence directorate arrested 3 men from the border town of Rmeish for trying to smuggle drugs into the Palestinian territories.

11:35am Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids over Marjayoun, Khiam, Kfarkila, Nabatiyeh and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

11:22am: We hope that the forthcoming elections wouldn't be effected by fraud.

11:20am The Council of Maronite Bishops after their monthly meeting: Accusations are ongoing. We urge everyone to create an atmosphere of cooperation.

10:34am Hariri: I encourage competition between Arab countries in order to improve.

10:32am Hariri: The solution is to work together to modernize our economies and improve the private sector which stimulates new investments.

10:30am Mustaqbal Movement leader Saad Hariri during the opening of the Omani-Lebanese gathering: Lebanon is considered for the time being a safe economic refuge but it is not fully isolated from the world economic crisis.

7:35am MP Ahmed Fatfat accused FPM leader Michel Aoun of seeking to set up a dictatorship in Lebanon.

Wednesday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

23:50 Speaker Berri after learning about the interception of the Lebanese aid ship by Israel said: the United Nations should take immediate action to end the siege of the Gaza Strip

22:40 MP Kanaan responds to (MP Michel)Murr through LBC: He has no right to insult members of Parliament that obtained the highest number of votes in the history of Matn and his name was not crossed out the supporters of the "Free Patriotic Movement" in 2005 elections

22:00 Minister Shamsudin told OTV": it is obvious that I will be a candidate in Beirut

21:56 MP Nicola told OTV": In the event I am nominated I will be a candidate in the northern Metn electoral district

21:54 Sarkozy and Merkel: We will not allow Iran to possess nuclear weapons

21:36 The four detained officers will be in the custody of the International Tribunal, starting next March

21:26 "Al Jazeera": Lebanese "brothers ship" that is bound for Gaza is facing Israeli threats and being ordered to return from where she come from.

21:20 Ambassador Johny Abdo told Future News TV: Investigation into the assassination of ex-Premier Rafik Hariri has reached a decisive stage. He also said that the May 7 ambiance still exists in the pocket of Hezbollah for use whenever it needs it . (in reference to the occupation of west Beirut by Hezbollah on May 7)

20:00 MP Camille Houry to al-Manar TV: MP Michel Aoun has expressed willingness to accept minister Elias Murr on his Metn election list, but MP Michel Murr chose to run for elections and reshuffled the cards.

19:50 Turkish president Gul called for Palestinian unity in a speech to the Shura Council in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia , saying " if the Mecca agreement (between Hamas and PLO) was implemented we would not have had the tragedy in Gaza" (in reference to Hamas war with Israel that resulted in the killing of 1350 Palestinians and the wounding of 5500 mostly civilians

19:10 MP Serge Tor Sarkisian on Wednesday demanded from FM Fawzi Salloukh the summoning of the ambassadors of the United States, Canada and Iran to "hear their views on a number of topics."

19: 04 March 14 alliance renewed its call for a massive turnout scheduled for Feb. 14 to mark the 4th anniversary of the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

19:02 A security source told VOL that the Katyusha rockets that were found near Naqoura were not set to be fired into Israel.

19:00 New TV: Israeli troops intercepted the Lebanese "Brotherhood Ship" that sailed toward Gaza carrying activists and supplies.

19:00 A suspected briefcase was found on the Alsalumi road in Sin el Fil , the security forces immediately attended to the scene and cut off the road. The briefcase was then inspected by an army expert and turned out to be empty.

18:54 Netanyahu: Hamas and Iran's nuclear program must be eliminated

18:07 5 Katyusha rockets were discovered in Wadi Hamoul near Naqoura in south Lebanon

18:00 Gasoline price up by 700 LL / 20 liters , Kerosene up by 100 LL / 20 liters and natural gas prices up 800 LL per canister

17:57 UNIFIL and the army arrest 3 people for drug trafficking

17:47 Ban Ki- Moon : Afghanistan is a priority for the United Nations during the 2009

17:27 Israeli expert: we have one year to launch the pre-emptive attack on Iran

17:15 Sarkis calls on May Chidiac (who resigned last night from LBC TV) to continue her mission, whatever the sacrifices

16:40 Hamas confiscates humanitarian aid from UNRWA by force of arms

16:19 December 21, 2012 .. will it be the end of the universe?

16:19 A Likud official to expresses his concern about the growing popularity of the extreme right-wing

16:11 Mubarak: Egypt will always remain a priority first and above all others

16:00 The General Secretariat of the Arab Journalists’ Federation assigned the first vice-president of the union Melhem Karam to head the federation until its president Ibrahim Nafeh has fully recovered from illness.

15:47 Public offices and government institutions as well as municipalities will close on Monday, Feb. 9 on the occasion of St. Maroun Day. Lebanese newspapers will not come out on Tuesday, Feb. 10.

15:20 Bassil : we are losing \$55 million a year in customs duty revenue because of the illegally imported Cellular phones

15:15 LBC: The Iranian ambassador proposed during a meeting with Justice Minister Ibrahim Najjar to set up a committee to follow up on the issue of the four missing Iranians during the civil war.

15:00 March 14 Forces reiterated its call for a massive turnout to commemorate the anniversary of the assassination of Premier Rafik Hariri.

14:50 MP Michel Murr declared he would compete in the forthcoming parliamentary elections in the Metn district as leader of the independent-moderate Christian list. Accused FPM leader Michel Aoun of obstructing elections

13:58 Administration and Justice Committee to study the creation of Planning Ministry

13:36 Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea during a press conference: I wish many journalists and politicians would act the same way May Chidiac did. My problem with LBC Chairman Pierre Daher is not personal.... MP Antoine Ghanem wouldn’t haven been killed if there was no wiretapping. The Council for the South was set up to compensate southerners during Israel’s occupation before 2000 but has become a state on its own . I wish PM Siniora will propose a vote on the budget

13:30 The army’s intelligence directorate arrested 3 men from the border town of Rmeish for trying to smuggle drugs into the Palestinian territories.

13:00 Israeli special units Israeli announced they were ready to intervene and take control the border with Lebanon should Hezbollah decide to avenge the killing of Imad Mugniyah

12:10 President Michel Suleiman is meeting with Speaker Nabih Berri in Baabda.

11:22 The Council of Maronite Bishops after their monthly meeting: Accusations are ongoing. We urge everyone to create an atmosphere of cooperation. We hope that the forthcoming elections wouldn’t be effected by fraud.

10:30 Israeli warplanes violated Lebanon airspace when they carried out mock raids over Marjayoun, Kham, Kfarkila, Nabatiyeh and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

10:30am parliament majority leader Saad Hariri during the opening of the Omani-Lebanese gathering: Lebanon is considered for the time being a safe economic refuge but it is not fully isolated from the world economic crisis. The

solution is to work together to modernize our economies and improve the private sector which stimulates new investments. I encourage competition

09:15 Israeli Housing Minister Ze'ev Boim publicly threatened to assassinate Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh . "It is the only way to stop rocket-firing at Israel," he said

08:42 Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hassan Ghashghavi states his country's launch of home-built satellite has no military objectives

08:35 Future MP Ghazi Youssef told the Voice of Lebanon that he is pleased with the cabinet decision to apply Law N° 140. Youssef critiqued the Free Patriotic Movement, saying it "is waging battles with windmills, or mock battles, just to say it won."

7:35 MP Ahmed Fatfat accused FPM leader Michel Aoun of seeking to set up a dictatorship in Lebanon.

07:54 Fatfat claims Bassil blocked investigators of wiretapping. He accused FPM leader Michel Aoun of seeking to set up a dictatorship in Lebanon: " General Aoun, given the chance to get to power, would rule Lebanon as a dictator, as he rules his party." He said

07:52 Taliban fighters capture thirty policemen in Northwest Pakistan

04:25 Nine Arab countries including Egypt and Saudi Arabia and UAE launched an initiative to stop Iran's interference in the Arab affairs. The initiative puts an end to interference by non Arabs, particularly Iran and supports the Palestinian National Authority and the "PLO", and mobilizes the support for the Arab peace initiative with Israel.

3:59 Albalad sources: The International investigation Commission has asked the Lebanese authorities not to use its name in any political disagreements in order to protect the integrity of the international investigation.

2:46 The UN Security Council welcomes the election of Sharif Sheikh Ahmed as the president of Somalia

2:43 US Ambassador to Jordan: The only solution to the Palestinian cause is the 2 state solution

2:26 Europe calls on the US to identify the Guantanamo Bay detainees

2:17 UAE has lost a ship in the waters of Somalia

2:01 Marouni : Aoun wants all the Lebanese to apologize to Syria

01:17 LBC anchor May Chidiac suddenly decided to quit and retired at the end of the program of Bekul Gur'aa Tuesday evening , stressing that this was her own decision

00:17 Tom Daschle, who paid more than \$140,000 in owed taxes and interest, withdrew his nomination to head the department of Health and Human Services today. The white House denied pressuring Daschle to resign

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00:00 Minister of Tourism Marouni told LBC : let's all join hands in building a strong state and a strong army that spreads its authority throughout the country

Live Coverage 2-03-2009 8:15pm LBC: Saudi ambassador Abdul Aziz Khoja expressed hope during his meeting with Speaker Nabih Berri that Saudi donations are spent where they should be spent.

7:30pm Fares Soueid, coordinator of the Secretariat General of March 14 Forces, said after meeting Geagea in Maarab that the rally scheduled for March 14 is an occasion to affirm the principles of justice through the international tribunal.

6:00pm Hariri said after receiving Egyptian ambassador Ahmed Bidewi: Egypt is in no need of good conduct certificate from those who follow non-Arab agenda.

5:30pm Mustaqbal Movement leader Saad Hariri urged representatives of Beirut families to take part in the Feb. 14 rally.

4:15pm Omani Minister of Heritage and Education arrived in Beirut to attend an economic conference.
 3:30pm Israeli jetfighters carried out mock air raids over the southern Apple province region.
 1:30pm Judge Saqr Saqr heard the testimony of a witness in the case of ex-Premier Rafik Hariri's assassination.
 12:00pm PM Saniora meets chief U.N. investigator Daniel Bellemare.
 11:15am Irish FM Michael Martin met with PM Fouad Saniora.
 10:50am VDL: An uninhabited building collapsed in Beirut's Gemmayze neighborhood without causing casualties.
 10:20am A hand grenade was found under the vehicle of a man in the town of Ansar in Nabatiyeh.
 9:20am Irish FM Michael Martin after meeting his Lebanese counterpart Fawzi Salloukh lauded U.S. Mideast envoy George Mitchell's mission and said he was pleased to see inter-Lebanese agreement on the implementation of the Doha Accord.
 7:40am Interior Minister Ziad Baroud to VDL: The solution to wiretapping is in implementing the law that sets the rules for legal interception of communications.

Tuesday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

23:17 Marouni told LBC : There are some in march 8th alliance that want Syria back in Lebanon
 22:25 Maroni told LBC : Aoun's threats of amputation of hands and tongues are punishable by law and therefore he must be prosecuted
 18:02 Abdullah Bin Zayed : The meeting of Arab Foreign Ministers in Abu Dhabi is to end the illegal interference of non-Arabs in the Palestinian issue (he is referring to Iran's interference in Gaza)
 17:56 Speaker Berri met with Irish FM and Saudi ambassador Khoja
 17:35 Olmert: We will respond to any provocation however limited it may be
 17:19 Al-Arabiya: Israeli warplanes strike Rafah border crossing, no casualties reported
 17:12 Mahfoud: The history of Syrian-Aoun conflict had been a tale which has been recently exposed
 17:11 Turkish president Gul: we have already notified Hamas about the consequences of going on the wrong road
 17:08 France connects between the Iranian satellite and the concerns over the Iranian military nuclear program
 16:59 Clinton: It's hard to tell Israel not to defend itself and our position on Hamas has not changed.
 16:58 US Sec. of State Clinton: Mitchell will return to the Middle East before the end of the month
 16:18 Chmaoun : Why is Aoun scared of the independents if he thinks he is the most popular Christian leader ?
 16:02 Clinton and Lavrov want to cooperate on strategic issues
 15:40 Sami Gemayel : The wiretapping has been going on for 20 years because of the security quarters (In reference to Hezbollah's al Dhahiya stronghold)
 15:30 Israeli jetfighters violated the Lebanese airspace when they carried out mock air raids over the southern Apple province region
 15:27 The Free Shiite movement has questioned" Aoun's irresponsible statements "
 15:20 Israeli DM Minister Barak : we will hold the Lebanese government for any Hezbollah attack , because this party is being represented in the Lebanese government
 15: 00 In response to comments about Aoun's threats MP Hamada said, after meeting with Prime Minister Siniora at the Grand Serail: " MP Walid Jumblatt and other Lebanese national political figures have arrest warrants issued against them by the Syrian judiciary, is Aoun trying to serve these arrest warrants ?"
 Hemadah added : Aoun has never been able to intimidate us and he should know better.
 Aoun was accused by March 14 alliance after his trip to Syria of acting as the spokesman for president Assad
 13:30 Judge Saqr Saqr heard the testimony of a witness in the case of ex-Premier Rafik Hariri's assassination.
 12:00 PM Siniora meets chief U.N. investigator and Special Tribunal Prosecutor Daniel Bellemare
 11:15 Irish FM Michael Martin met with PM Fouad Siniora
 11:08 Joint parliamentary commissions holding a meeting chaired by Deputy Speaker Farid Makari, after it was postponed last week due to ministers' absence
 11:03 Future MP Ghazi Youssef said FPM Minister Gebran Bassil wanted to legalize the illegitimate call centers in Dahiyeh. (In reference to Hezbollah network)
 10:50 VOL: An uninhabited building collapsed in Beirut's Gemmayze neighborhood without causing casualties.
 10:26 Future TV : Justice Minister Ibrahim Najjar said, "If wiretapping was needed for security reasons, then it should be allowed but only after an administrative or judicial approval is obtained"
 10:20 ISF detonates a hand grenade that was found under the vehicle of a man in the town of Ansar in Nabatiyeh.
 9:20 Irish FM Michael Martin after meeting his Lebanese counterpart Fawzi Salloukh lauded U.S. Mideast envoy George Mitchell's mission and said he was pleased to see inter-Lebanese agreement on the implementation of the Doha Accord.
 07:55 Palestinian rocket fired from Gaza lands in Israeli town of Ashkelon. Caused damage but no injuries reported
 7:40 Interior Minister Ziad Baroud told VOL: The solution to wiretapping is in implementing the law that sets the rules for legal interception of communications.
 07:28 Fars News: Iran puts first Iranian made satellite (Omid) using a Safir-2 rocket in orbit . The satellite is aimed at determining orbital measurements and will circulate Earth 15 times every 24 hours.

Live Coverage 2-02-2009 5:12pm Communications Minister Gebran Bassil said the proposed center for intercepting communications would protect privacy of Lebanese citizens.

4:48pm FPM leader Michel Aoun said Saniora, Jumblat and Hariri should be referred to a court of law on charges of hurting Lebanon's relations with Syria.

4:23pm Murr said Communications Minister Gebran Bassil had taken time to review a certain file upon assuming office and a regrettable incident happened at that time.

4:21pm Murr said he is not responsible for wiretapping procedures adopted in the past.

4:20pm Defense Minister Elias Murr said a law on intercepting calls would be applied for the first time as of tomorrow.

2:45pm Phalange Party leader Amin Gemayel met Italian President Giorgio Napolitano during a visit to Italy.

2:25pm An Iranian ship loaded with aid, which was supposed to sail from Tripoli to Gaza, was replaced with another ship for technical reasons.

1:45pm PM Fouad Saniora heads a ministerial-judiciary-security meeting at the Grand Serail to discuss the issue of wiretapping.

1:20pm Head of the Administrative and Justice Committee Robert Ghanem: A suggestion to form a ministry of planning and cancel all Councils has not been delivered to the committee yet.

12:11 pm: 40,000 fake boxes for packing sweat tobacco were confiscated at a printing establishment in Kfar Nabrakh.

12:10pm Sfeir met with MP Saad Hariri's advisor Daoud al-Sayegh and discussed with him latest developments in the country.

12:05pm Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir: No one is hearing us. Some people don't care about the issues of the Lebanese.

11:00pm: MP Hussein al-Hajj Hassan to al-Manar TV: Wiretapping is an old problem. What is funny is that the March 14 Forces that used to suffer from this issue are now placed in doubt over this topic.

10:15am: Prime Minister Fouad Saniora discussed Palestinian developments with Hamas Movement representative in Lebanon Osama Hamdan in the presence of head of the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee Ambassador Khalil Makkawi.

9:18am: Finance Minister Mohammed Shatah to VDL: Every Lebanese is concerned with the issue of wiretapping and this issue is not new. We thought we had come up with a legal framework that controls this issue.

8:15am MP Atef Majdalani to VDL: There are illegal parties that wiretap all phone lines and I mean by this Hizbullah. That's why there is a need to form an investigation committee.

Monday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

22:22 Baroud told OTV : We are studying the issue of eavesdropping seriously and objectivity of and the meeting today was very important and we are heading for a new phase

20:29 Barak: There is tension on the border with Lebanon, and I warn Hezbollah not to try to test Israel again

20:27 Harb received Sison : granting the blocking third in the government to the opposition was a failure . we will not participate in the government if we will be a minority

20:20 Gemayel told LBC from Rome : Consultations are under way to develop the role of the international forces to more effective on the Lebanese scene, Italy is ready to observe the elections if the Lebanese government asks it

17:55 Syrian FM Mouallem: Syria is awaiting the outcome of the Israeli general election before deciding whether to renew peace talks .

17:49 Mohsin Dalloul : I may be an independent candidate in the Beqaa and the talk that that independents don't have , taste or smell is "heresay"

18:18 Lebanon's Daily Star is back on newsstands after it was forced to shut down for about two weeks due to a legal dispute with a creditor. The judiciary has granted the paper permission to resume publication according to the paper

18:10 Hezbollah on Monday honored Tehran on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran."Our duty is to exchange loyalty for loyalty." Said Sheikh Nabil Qaouq

18:02 Baabda electoral list: Former MPs Salah Hnein and Edmond Garios are seeking to draw up a list of independent parliamentary candidates in response to Jumblatt's announcement about naming Hnein and Garios on a list that includes MPs Abdullah Farhat and Ayman Shoucair . Phalange Party coordinator Sami Gemayel also stressed that his party will not give up its Baabda-Aley (constituency) seat. PSP said it was "studying all options and possibilities that could lead to victory for the "independent line and the centrist bloc" in the June 2009 elections.

18:00 Marada Movement leader Suleiman Franjiyeh said Monday he was looking forward to entering Parliament as head of a parliamentary bloc."I'm relaxed," Franjeh stressed, adding that that betting on the West "could protect (us) for a while, but on the long run it could be suicidal for both Christians and Muslim betters

17:49 Reformist candidate for the Iranian presidential elections, Mehdi Karoubi, supports dialogue with Washington

17:47 Iranian president Ahmadinejad reduced patrols of religious guidance as tactic to gain electoral support

17:43 Minister Elias Murr left for Germany

17:23 Hezbollah appoints a new media official transferred current media official Rahal to the electronic media

17:19 Minister Shatah met with US Ambassador Sison to discuss the balance of US grant of \$ 250 million

17:05 Telecommunications Minister Gebran Bassil said during a press conference in Rabieh: The wiretapping issue concerns the Ministries of Defense, Interior, and Justice, but the campaign issue was only directed at the

Telecommunications Ministry . That is why I consider this political.

17:04 U.S. embassy: a training session for the Lebanese army on military law

17:02 Hariri met with the Dean of Industrialists and the MPS of Aley

16:48 FPM leader Michel Aoun said Siniora, Jumblatt and Hariri should be referred to a court of law on charges of hurting Lebanon's relations with Syria. We support cancelling all councils and funds as well as the referral of the compensation files to concerned ministries. These tasks are best done through the Social Affairs Ministry, which is manned by FPM's minister Mario Aoun. We will accept all contributions to the election campaigns, provided they are unconditional.

16:23 Defense Minister Elias Murr said law No.140 which was adopted in the year 1999 on intercepting calls would be applied for the first time starting tomorrow. He said Communications Minister Gebran Bassil had taken time to review a certain file upon assuming office and a regrettable incident happened at that time. The telecommunications minister has established a center specialized in wiretapping, and it will be run by army officers.

15:55 Meeting on wiretapping at Grand Serail ends

15:45 "Al Jazeera:" Al-Nasser Salah al-Din Brigades has bombed the town of Sderot with two rockets launched from the Gaza Strip

15:39 One killed and one injured in an explosion of a strange object in Abda

15:30 Jumblatt: Disabling the Council of the South on the grounds of mismanagement is leading to the disruption of the entire public budget, a negative move in the face of the administration and the state

15:15 one ton of hashish seized in the town of Kneisseh in the Bekaa

15:00 President Suleiman reviewed the situation in the country with the MPs Youssef, Fatouh and Faris Bweiz

14:55 Riad Salameh : the financial numbers are positive and the lira exchange rate is stable and my advise is not to increase the spending in the budget (He is referring to the demand by Speaker Berri for 60 billion LL more for the south council

14:45 Phalange Party leader Amin Gemayel met Italian President Giorgio Napolitano during a visit to Italy.

14:31 Hamas politburo chief Khaled Meshaal said during his speech at Tehran University: Israel has failed to defeat the Resistance and bring down the Hamas government and was unable to stop the missiles of the Resistance.

14:25 An Iranian ship loaded with aid, which was supposed to sail from Tripoli to Gaza, was replaced with another ship for technical reasons.

13:45 PM Fouad Siniora heads a ministerial-judiciary-security meeting attended by judicial authorities, security officials and defense, interior, justice and telecommunications ministers at the Grand Serail to discuss the issue of wiretapping.

13:20 Head of the Administrative and Justice Committee Robert Ghanem: forming a ministry of planning might not be concluded before elections

12:11 : 40,000 fake boxes for packing sweat tobacco were confiscated at a printing establishment in Kfar Nabrakh.

12:10 Sfeir met with MP Saad Hariri's advisor Daoud al-Sayegh and discussed with him latest developments in the country.

12:05 Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir: No one is listening to us. Some people don't care about the issues of the Lebanese and neglecting people's affairs

11:50 One Palestinian killed, four wounded in Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip on Monday

11:46 Change and Reform bloc MP Nabil Nicolas defends Bassil in the wiretapping scandal and said he is implementing the law

11:00 : MP Hussein al-Hajj Hassan told al-Manar TV: Wiretapping is an old problem. Every state has the right to wiretapping but according to the law, its decrees and the respect of people's privacy. The majority must know that they are not the state and that the state is not them.

10:50 Future MP Nabil De Freij told Future TV: We will call for a parliamentary investigative committee [to be formed,] not only to investigate the wiretapping issue, but [to also monitor] the administration of his ministry. Bassil is misleading the people

10:15 : Prime Minister Fouad Siniora discussed Palestinian developments with Hamas Movement representative in Lebanon Osama Hamdan in the presence of head of the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee Ambassador Khalil Makkawi.

9:18 : Finance Minister Mohammed Shatah told VOL: Every Lebanese is concerned with the issue of wiretapping and this issue is not new. We thought we had come up with a legal framework that controls this issue.

8:15 MP Atef Majdalani told VOL: There are illegal parties that wiretap all phone lines and I mean by this Hezbollah. That's why there is a need to form an investigation committee. He asked if Hezbollah wiretapping was coordinated with the security services

3:25 Talal al-Mikdad told Sada Al Balad : " The President is committed to the line of compromise

3:18 Al Balad : Presidential sources denied reports that political adviser Nazim Al-Khuri has resigned from his position, but did not confirm that he will remain in his position in the events he runs in the parliamentary elections

3:12 Al Balad : most of the public transportation drivers remain on strike over the lowering of the tariff by minister Aridi and the syndicate of public transportation drivers

2:57 The world be facing water shortage within 20 years

2:50 India kills tens of thousands of chicken for fear of bird flu

2:45 barak and Livni are in disagreement over a truce agreement

2:33 Israel requests Cyprus to confiscate the ship load of Iranian weapons that were destined to Gaza

2:23 Israeli aircraft launched an attack on a police station in the Gaza Strip

2:17 Gadafi calls for formation of a United States of Africa government of national unity

2:07 Obama has begun a dialogue with Iran and Syria away from the limelight

1:58 El Seyassa : President Suleyman is striving to reconcile between Berri and Siniora to find a common ground for agreement to get the budget approved within a maximum of ten days.

1:49 The Iranian Hezbollah's intelligence service is eavesdropping on the calls of the State , the embassies and spiritual leaders

1:38 According security and political sources : the wiretapping scandal by the ministry of communications which is headed by FPM's minister Gibran Bassil explains the reasons behind the insistence of General Aoun (under pressure from Hezbollah) to have this ministry

1:35 According security and political sources the "Hezbollah network is now covering most of Lebanon and is focused on eavesdropping 7 days /24 hours on most state institutions , the embassies of the U.S. , French and Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Gulf countries in addition to the Christian spiritual leader in Bkirki and the Sunni spiritual Mufti

1:22 Israeli diplomat told el Seyassah: Turkish PM Erdogan has lost his credibility as an honest peace broker between Israel and its neighbors

1:18 Cairo renews its attacks against Hezbollah's Nasrallah

0:54 Jewish French writer: Meshaal is ready to recognize Israel

0:01 al Arabiya : continuous Israeli raids on the border crossing area in Rafah

Live Coverage 2-01-2009 12:30 pm: Progressive Socialist Party: We are studying all possibilities and choices that could in the end lead to an election victory for the independent and centrist political line.

12:00 pm: The Lebanese Phalanges Party launched its electoral machinery at the Habtour Hotel during a gathering of over 2000 party leading members and cadres.

10:05am Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir during his Sunday sermon: We advise citizens to choose the most efficient for parliament without being influenced by scare tactics.

9:40am Minister Ibrahim Shamseddine to VDL: The issue of bugging phone calls has been brought up since the formation of the cabinet. Minister Bassil readied himself several times to give information about the subject but wasn't able to do so.

9:15am March 14 official Fares Soaid to VDL: We urge the Lebanese state to deal with the issue of telecommunications bugging and help unveil the truth.

8:00am VDL: Telecommunications Minister Jebran Bassil will hold a press conference on Monday to answer questions regarding reports about illegal bugging of phone calls.

Sunday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

23:55 Preliminary results of Iraqi elections will be announced the end of the week

23:46 Khartoum calls on the international forces to leave a region in Darfur

23:30 Israeli raid on a police post near Wadi Gaza in the center of the Gaza Strip.

23:28 U.S. engineers in Egypt to look for the smuggling tunnels

23:23 the Egyptian president has again rejected the calls for the deployment of international observers on the border with the Gaza Strip, regardless of any justifications for this force.

23:20 Future TV: massive raids on the district of Brazil and the tunnels . There is no peace in southern Gaza Strip.

23:06 al Arabiya : massive Israeli raids that are targeting the tunnels between Gaza and Egypt

23:04 Al Jazeera:" Israeli warplanes bombed positions on the border between Egypt and Gaza.

22:50 Khamenei told Meshaal: get ready for another war in the Gaza Strip,

22:23 al Arabiya : Israeli raid on the Police post in central Gaza

22:20 MP Saad Hariri and Minister Elias Murr met at Quraitem to discuss most recent developments

20:42 Israel's counter-terrorism bureau on Sunday warned that Hezbollah is planning to abduct or kill Israeli officials ahead of the anniversary of the assassination of Mughniyah

18:15 Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said he rejected dialogue with Palestinian parties that reject the PLO "We said that we approved the formation of a national unity cabinet, which prepares for elections. But, now we say that there can be no dialogue with those who reject the PLO, they have to clearly announce that they admit [to the existence] of the PLO," said Abbas.

14:00 Lebanese Shiite leader Ahmad Assaad said the Displaced Fund , the High Relief Committee and the Council of the South are shops for favoritism, that are being used by Amal and Hezbollah. He also said the funds being requested for the Council of the South will be used for election campaigns by Hezbollah and Amal . He pointed out that the Hezbollah arms put psychological pressure on voters.

Assaad stressed that it is not in the interest of the Shiites of Lebanon to be connected with the Iranian regime , according to Assaad the Shiites will benefit more from being loyal to the Lebanese state

12:30 : Progressive Socialist Party: We are studying all possibilities and choices that could in the end lead to an election

victory for the independent and centrist political line.

12:10 Ministry of Finance : The deficit until the end of 2008 was 4404 billion Lebanese Pounds (LL) about \$2.7 billion

12:00 : The Lebanese Phalanges Party launched its election campaign at the Habtour Hotel during a gathering of over 2000 party leading members and cadres.

11:39 Minister of communications Gibran Bassil said some lose their mind when a minister questions illegitimate activities

11:01 Mario Aoun: Cabinet may be urged to resign if it fails to approve 2009 budget

10:23 Olmert vows a "disproportionate" response to rocket fire from Gaza

10:23 Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni call for a violent response to rocket-launches from Gaza.

10:15 Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir called on the Lebanese to vote for efficient candidates without being intimidated or influenced by scare tactics

10:04 Minister Ibrahim Shamseddine told VOL: The issue of bugging phone calls has been brought up since the formation of the cabinet. Minister Bassil readied himself several times to give information about the subject but wasn't able to do so. He added : Ministers should be punished if they are involved in wiretapping.

09:26 Development and Liberation bloc MP Michel Moussa told Free Lebanon radio station : "the wiretapping issue is very important because it pertains to people's privacy."

9:15 March 14 official Fares Soaid to VDL: We urge the Lebanese state to deal with the issue of telecommunications bugging and help unveil the truth.

09:09 Hobeich: Many assassinations occurred after phone calls of politician were tracked

8:00 VOL: Telecommunications Minister Jebran Bassil will hold a press conference on Monday to answer questions regarding reports about illegal wiretapping of phone calls.

Other Headlines Barak: Lebanese Aid Boat Towed to Israeli Port
 Riad Salameh Named Best Middle East Central Bank Governor
 Israeli Force Crosses into South Lebanon
 Posters, Political Slogans Removed from Streets East of Sidon
 Fatah Islam Detainee Admits to Attack on UNIFIL
 Mini Wiretap Debate Likely to Be Hot One
 Saudi Donations to be Paid by End of February
 Study: 28 Percent of Lebanese Qualify as Poor
 Five Katyusha Rockets Found in Southern Lebanon
 Briefcase Causes Bomb Scare at Beirut Highway
 Israel Intercepts Lebanese Ship Carrying Aid to Gaza
 Michel Murr to Compete in Elections, Says He was Victim of Alliance with Aoun
 Shibani for Setting Up Non-Judicial Committee to Follow Up On Issue of Missing Iranians
 Tor Sarkissian Demands Summoning Ambassadors of U.S., Canada, Iran
 Baroud Launches Election Newsletter
 March 14 Renews Call for Massive Turnout to Commemorate Hariri Murder
 Israel Puts Combat Troops on Alert to Ward off Possible Mughniyeh Revenge Attack
 Geagea for Combating Illegal Wiretapping
 Gunfire at Jibril's Bekaa Base
 Maronite Bishops Slam Declining Political Rhetoric
 Hariri for Competition Based on Integration of Arab Economies
 Poland's Priority is NATO Not UNIFIL
 Tit-For-Tat Wrangling Between Berri and Saniora over Wiretapping
 Blair: Two-State Solution Will Pave Way for Lebanon-Israel Talks
 May Chidiac Refuses to Betray Her Blood
 12 Men Plead Innocent to Charges of Attacking Lebanese Musicians in Jordan
 Tehran Wants Joint Committee with Beirut on Its Missing Diplomats
 Teacher Unions, Public Sector Employees Call for Strike Feb. 11
 Israeli Mock Air Raids over Iqlim Tuffah
 Baroud Convenes Wiretapping Team
 Edde to Aoun: Where Are Your Christian Values?
 Israel Vows Painful Response to Any Hizbullah Attack
 Israel Fears Hizbullah Revenge Might Target Knesset Officials
 Hariri: We Would Not Allow Attempts to Suffocate Beirut