



*Promoting Lebanon's news, events & Business Opportunities
to Lebanese expatriates around the planet*

e-LIBC

Welcome to edition
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Founding president's Message

Join the hands save the country

Lebanon desperately needs dialogue between its divided camps and a revival of its political institutions to save the country from sliding back into civil war.

Leaders from both sides say they are calling for self-restraint to avoid more bloodshed, but analysts warn that the situation could spin out of control.

Many say that the Lebanese do not have any willingness to start a war, but civil wars are not linked to a decision. They start with incidents and a series of confrontations.

Things are going out of control. There is extreme tension in the streets, we have reached a very dangerous phase and we have exceeded all red lines.

The more that Lebanese institutions remain paralyzed, the more we will be preparing the ground for civil war. We need institutions to function again. It is the time to return to dialogue LIBC calls Lebanese citizens, regardless of their political affiliation, to join us in taking a stand. To demand an immediate and peaceful resolution to the political deadlock. We can no longer tolerate the growing violence leaving us anxious about our present and fearful for our future.

Unhappy with the reckless discourse and actions of politicians, we refuse to be led toward instability and civil war. This is the reason why Lebanese expatriates around the planet are raising their voices today.

Despite the challenges Lebanon is facing; the political divisions, "Paris 3 Conference" was an important event for Lebanon and all the Lebanese.

The conference aimed to help the Lebanese people come through an extremely complex set of financial phases and deadlines given the fact that the Lebanese treasury is almost bankrupt.

Unlike 2006, 2007 is the due date of significant Lebanese debts that amount to about \$3 billion. It is noteworthy here that, throughout its history, Lebanon has always honored its debt due dates, even during the Civil War.

In light of the current financial state of the country, as the Central Bank of Lebanon tries to meet the country's bills and financial commitments, Lebanon should be rescued from the danger of insolvency.

Since no Lebanese would contribute to the collapse of his national economy, efforts must be exerted to preserve some confidence in Lebanon. This confidence means that Lebanon manages to pay off its debts and overcome the current tough circumstances.

The Lebanese internal situation is the responsibility of all sides, and any party, supporting any side, would be severely undermining its own interests by working for the collapse of Lebanon into bankruptcy. With the collapse of Lebanon, nobody would have a role to play.

The billions of dollars in aid were a clear sign of support for Lebanon, and provided a lifeline as we battle and seek to pull the country away from the brink of financial collapse.

Lebanon's public debt has reached 41 billion dollars, more than 180 percent of gross domestic product.

Therefore, the Lebanese people are strongly requested to join hands in an effort to save their country from economic and political bankruptcy.

**Warm regards,
Nassib Fawaz (Founding president LIBC)**

ABOUT e-LIBC

e-LIBC provides Monthly news on Lebanese society worldwide, Lebanon's news, events & Business Opportunities to Lebanese expatriates around the planet and provides links to useful electronic and print resources aimed at strengthening Lebanese society worldwide.

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Lebanon at a Tripwire

Lebanon has badly lost its balance and is at risk of new collapse, moving ever closer to explosive Sunni-Shiite polarisation with a divided, debilitated Christian community in between. The fragile political and sectarian equilibrium established since the end of its bloody civil war in 1990 was never a panacea and came at heavy cost. It depended on Western and Israeli acquiescence in Syria's tutelage and a domestic system that hindered urgently needed internal reforms, and change was long overdue. But the upsetting of the old equilibrium, due in no small part to a tug-of-war by outsiders over its future, has been chaotic and deeply divisive, pitting one half of the country against the other. Both Lebanon's own politicians and outside players need to recognise the enormous risks of a zero-sum struggle and seek compromises before it is too late.

There is domestic responsibility for the crisis. Profound confessional rifts were never fully healed after the civil war; society is hopelessly fragmented along clan, family, regional, social and ideological lines; there are no genuinely sovereign, credible and strong state institutions; and above all, a corrupt patronage system has created vested interests in perpetuating both sectarianism and a weak central state.

Read more: <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4586&l=1>

Proposed U.S. Assistance to Lebanon totals over \$1 billion

The United States is helping Lebanon to recover after last summer's conflict, and is committed to a sovereign, democratic and prosperous Lebanon. The United States led the international effort to bring urgently needed humanitarian relief to the people of Lebanon. A comprehensive U.S. aid package continues to support reconstruction, development and security efforts throughout Lebanon. The United States also coordinates with the international community's efforts to foster Lebanon's long-term development and fiscal stabilization.

Read more: <http://lebanon.usembassy.gov/lebanon/img/assets/10378/Lebanon2.pdf>

Donors pledge 7.6 bln dollars in aid Lebanon

International donors pledged more than 7.6 billion dollars in aid for Lebanon to bolster the Western-backed government in Beirut and help the country recover from war. Saudi Arabia, the United States, France and multilateral lenders led the drive to raise the massive aid package at a donors' conference for Lebanon. The biggest pledges came from the World Bank and the European Investment Bank, which together contributed more than two billion dollars (1.5 billion euros).

Saudi Arabia put forward 1.1 billion dollars (846 million euros), the United States gave 770 million dollars and France a loan of 500 million euros (650 million dollars).

"The amount raised totals a little over 7.6 billion dollars," French President Jacques Chirac announced at the meeting attended by more than 40 countries and international organisations.

Read more: <http://www.pcm.gov.lb/NR/rdonlyres/4D817E6A-39C8-4F26-AF27-9C8C830E29F5/0/paris3En.doc>

Lebanon faces major environmental harm

Unexploded cluster bombs and factories contaminated with toxic chemicals after last year's conflict pose serious environmental risks to Lebanon.

A report by the organisation's Environment Programme (UNEP) warned that if it fails to act quickly to remove the debris, Lebanon will face major long-term public health hazards, including water supply contamination.

Read more: <http://www.unep.org/lebanon>

International Network of Lebanese Entrepreneurs & Technologists

International Network of Lebanese Entrepreneurs & Technologists, is a global nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established to facilitate technology and business development through networking, knowledge exchange, and mentoring among Lebanese entrepreneurs and technologists worldwide.

INLET aims to accelerate economic and social advancement within Lebanon and Lebanese communities worldwide through fostering technological entrepreneurship and leveraging the collective experience and contribution of its members through :

- Facilitating global networking among INLET members.
- Supporting Lebanese technologies and technology-based ventures.
- Promoting technology and knowledge exchange with Lebanon
- Providing effective mentorship and guidance to junior INLET members

To learn more about this new initiative visit <http://www.inlet-lebanon.org/>

Jobs for Lebanese by Lebanese



FREE Job Posting, CV Search and Resume Posting.

Employers: If you are seeking talented candidates this will be the place to reach them. Post jobs or search resumes today, it's free and easy.

Candidates: Not all employers advertise their jobs - many search the HireLebanese.com database for resumes and talented candidates. Submit your Resumes today!

HireLebanese: "Lebanese have built a reputation for brains and productivity so let's capitalize on our reputation and centralize our efforts to succeed." Our goal is to market the Lebanese workforce as one.

There are MANY more jobs at www.HireLebanese.com!

Remember not all employers post their jobs. Many are searching the HireLebanese.com database of resumes for qualified candidates. Post your resumesToday!

PLEASE APPLY DIRECTLY BY GOING TO:

<http://www.hirelebanese.com/searchresults.aspx?order=date&keywords=&category=&type=&duration=&country=&state=&city=&emp=&pg=1>

Please feel free to contact us at info@hireLebanese.com

Banks News

Banks post handsome profits despite crises Sector took in total of \$669 million for 2006

It takes more than sticks and stones - and even bombs and missiles - to break the bones of the Lebanese banking sector. This is the impression one gets after reading the impressive results of the banks in general in 2006. According to the Central Bank report issued this week, the consolidated balance sheets of banks in Lebanon jumped by 8.3 percent in 2006 to \$76.179 billion compared to \$70.325 billion in 2005. Total assets of banks represent more than 300 percent of the country's GDP. Total customer deposit also increased by more than 6 percent to reach \$63 billion. Central Bank Governor Riad Salameh, speaking at a banking conference on Tuesday, said that 2006 was a very good year for the sector. "The private equity of banks in 2006 jumped by 32 percent to \$6.332 billion," Salameh told participants. Three leading banks have increased their capitals by at least \$800 million in 2006. He added that profits of banks in 2006 were also at a record high.

Read more: http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=3&article_id=79307

Blom Bank: the Best Bank in Lebanon

BLOM Bank received all the awards granted for Lebanese Banks for 2006 by international specialized institutions:

Bank of the year from the Banker
Best Bank in Lebanon from Euromoney
Best Investment Bank in Lebanon from Euromoney.
Best Bank in Lebanon from Global Finance

In addition, BLOM Bank maintains solely the highest financial strength rating among Lebanese banks from Capital Intelligence, a Middle East specialized rating agency.

For more information to <http://www.blom.com.lb>

Bank Audi Economic Research

Within a rapidly evolving environment, Bank Audi believes that the contribution to the flow of economic, monetary and financial information is critical. Research efforts date back to 1991, the first year after the civil war, when the Research Department of Bank Audi was established and rapidly evolved to incorporate one of the most comprehensive databases on Lebanon's economy and its sectors of activity. The economic database run by the Research Department has been growing steadily, providing the Bank with a greater degree of mastery over both its current macroeconomic environment and its banking positioning. This entails adequate environment analysis, appropriate assessment of the competition and ultimately proper forecasting of the key forces that might influence the operating conditions of the Bank in the near future.

For more information to <http://www.audi.com.lb/geteconomy/economic/economic.html>

Byblos Bank signs Execution Contract for the Construction of the Fidar Bridge

On Monday 30 October 2006, the Chairman and General Manager of Byblos Bank S.A.L., Dr. François S. Bassil, signed the Construction Contract with Mr. Elie Salwan, owner of the Bureau D'études et Travaux Hydrauliques-Electriques, prepared by Dar Al Handassah (Shair and Partners), represented by Mr. Riad Mneimné, to rebuild the Fidar Bridge destroyed during the war of July 2006. It is noted that Byblos Bank has assigned La Constructa S.A.L to represent it for the project.

The Fidar Bridge was officially classified as a completely destroyed bridge, which required a full new design. The new design caters for the much heavier truck axle loads that exist currently in Lebanon and is in accordance with the latest international standards with earthquake resisting features. Furthermore, it is the design that requires the least execution period from the various designs evaluated, including the original one.

The overall construction cost is estimated at USD 4 million, and will take around 11 months; thus the inauguration of the bridge is expected to take place in August 2007.

Read more: http://www.byblosbank.com.lb/newscenter/corporate_news/index.shtml#PressRelease190107

TELL A FRIEND
Do you have a friend who works for Lebanese expatriates around the planet?

Would you like to share this newsletter with them?

Please forward their e-mail address to info@libc.net

The Mission of the LIBC is simple. Come together (work together for the same goal) Dialogue about culture and business Create networking opportunities for business people to work together Support the countries that we live in and certainly support Lebanon economically and politically.

“It is the responsibility of every Lebanese immigrant as well as every Arab around the world to support the countries that gave them the opportunity to live in peace, to be educated and have a decent life. We are obligated to support and employ local people, invest in the economy of the country that gave us citizenship, pay taxes, defend the country when required, and certainly vote and participate in the political system. This is what we the LIBC ask you as Lebanese and Arab expatriates to do. This will make you respected, trusted, and a needed commodity”.
Nassib Fawaz

Suggested Links

Loubnani W Bass

Loubnani W Bass is a grassroots civil movement that was established with the main aim of giving an extra channel to the silent majority of Lebanon. It also aspires at boosting the cry of the many other organizations which are calling for the end of this political stalemate. Our voice will resonate as far as possible to say that we are:
tired of hearing politicians irresponsibly exchange accusations;
tired of seeing our people give up hope and lose their jobs;
tired of seeing our hopeless young flee this country;
and tired of watching the only homeland we have, turn into a bargaining chip in the hand of external powers.

Source: <http://www.loubnaniwbass.org/>

Lebanese In Gulf

Lebaneseingulf.com is a portal website for the Lebanese Community in the Gulf region. Founded in 2002, LIG mission is to provide the Lebanese living and working in the Gulf with unique resources helping them reunite, build businesses and get to know each other.

Source: <http://www.lebaneseingulf.com/>

Lebanese in Kuwait

Lebanese in Kuwait is a portal website for the Lebanese Community in Kuwait. Founded by Ralph El Kahy in 2002, LIK mission is to provide the Lebanese living and working in Kuwait with unique resources helping them reunite, build businesses and get to know each other. In order to achieve the website's objectives and goals, LIK organizes a series of social events in Kuwait from theme dinners, open days, gatherings, camps, boat trips and many others while covering and supporting any kind of events related to the Lebanese community.

Source: <http://www.lebaneseinkuwait.com/>

Lebanese in Bahrain

Lebanese in Bahrain is a portal website for the Lebanese Community in Bahrain. LIB mission is to provide the Lebanese living and working in Bahrain with unique resources helping them reunite, build businesses and get to know each other. In order to achieve the website's objectives and goals, LIB will be organizing a serie of social events in Bahrain from theme dinners, open days, gatherings, camps, boat trips and many others while covering and supporting any kind of events related to the Lebanese community.

Maroun Nacouzi, a Lebanese active resident in Bahrain, is representing the website and handling LIB activities & events.

Email: maroun@lebaneseinbahrain.com

Source: <http://www.lebaneseinbahrain.com/>

RESOLVE IT. SOLVE IT

Resolve it solve it is a group of unaffiliated concerned Lebanese citizens tired of being marginalized and ignored.

We are calling on other concerned citizens, regardless of their political affiliation, to join us in taking a stand. On Saturday, February 10th at 2pm, we are organizing a human chain in Beirut to publicly demand an immediate and peaceful resolution to the political deadlock. We can no longer tolerate the growing violence leaving us anxious about our present and fearful for our future.

Unhappy with the reckless discourse and actions of politicians, we refuse to be led toward instability and civil war. This is the reason why we are here today.

Source: <http://www.resolveitsolveit.org/>

Lebanese Diaspora: the imagined communities

The article below is a compilation of web and Library research done by Bassam Kantar. It reflects a diverse points of views of Foreign, Lebanese immigrants, Lebanese researchers and thinkers regarding the Lebanese Diaspora and Communities in different regions around the world. Attached to the article is a list of Kantar's sources and a brief bibliography about each.

By definition Diaspora is a dispersion of people from their original homeland, likewise expatriation, extradition, migration, separation, or displacement.



People have been emigrating from Lebanon for well over a century. It is currently estimated that there are between 11 and 13 million people from Lebanon or of Lebanese descent in the worldwide Lebanese Diaspora. Such numbers easily surpass the small number of Lebanese that actually live in Lebanon today – around 3.7 million.

The Lebanese emigration has formed an important part of the international movement of population which is one of the features of the modern world. The emigrants from Lebanon established communities in North and South America, the Caribbean, Australia and West Africa, and more recently in the Gulf and other parts of the Middle East (Kerbage, 2002).

The Lebanese, having first begun emigrating around 130 years ago, are not the pure, traditional version of a Diaspora. They assuredly do not meet all of the various requirements that William Safran claims to be the test of a true Diaspora. While the Lebanese are dispersed from an “original center,” maintain a memory or myth of their original homeland, are in many cases committed to an ideal for their homeland (however, this agenda varies tremendously among differing sects), and are finally identified in relation to their homeland (Safran, 1991), they often lack various other qualities that are necessary to fit Safran’s traditional definition at different points in the Diaspora’s history. At different points in the Diaspora’s history certain Lebanese groups may or may not wish to return to the homeland or certain groups may or may not have been accepted by their host countries. Therefore, when speaking of the Lebanese Diaspora, one cannot define it statically. Some communities or groups within the Diaspora may meet some of the requirements at one time and others at another time.

Read more: http://www.nordsud21.org/files/Lebanese_Diaspora.pdf



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