

Naharnet / NNA News Feb. 10-13, 2009

Contributed by Naharnet, Yalibnan, LBC, NNA.GOV.LB
Friday, 13 February 2009

U.N. Investigators in Syria on Eve of Hariri's Murder Anniversary - A large group of U.N. investigators headed to Syria on the eve of ex-Premier Rafik Hariri's fourth assassination anniversary, the National News Agency reported Friday....

Live Coverage 2-13-2009 11:44: Bassil: Security services were displeased over the public display of their telephone calls but were unperturbed over suspicions of links to terrorist groups.

11:39: Bassil: The issue of Orascom concerns the government, which awarded the company a contract to operate 1 mobile phone firm. Any MP who had information about the subject should have been questioned over withholding this information.

11:34: Bassil: I hear of wire-tapping equipment in Koreitem. Who can give me an answer about this?

11:30: Bassil: I place direct responsibility on Hariri for everything that is happening to me or to any member of the opposition. He is in charge of an apparatus, which frankly says its reference is the Future Movement.

11:25: Bassil: The officer in the Ministry of Telecommunications is employed there legally. It seems that some members of the majority are facing a problem with the army and those army officers who do not belong to a certain political side.

11:23: Bassil: I call for an end to the incitement of rumors saying that we did not give the international investigation committee enough information even if such false reports about the wire-tapping file will serve tomorrow's rally.

11:18: Telecommunications Minister Jebran Bassil in a press conference: Hundreds of wire-tapping applications were hand-written and filed to the judges in a comic manner to obtain information from the mobile operators.

9:44am A security source told Future News TV that a large group of UN investigators headed to Syria.

7:45am VDL: Scores of armed Syrian Social National Party (SSNP) supporters gathered in a Tripoli neighborhood last night.

7:40am Minister Jean Oghassabian to VDL: The national unity government proved to be useless because it wasn't able to take many decisions on appointments, wiretapping and budget.

Live Coverage 2-12-2009 10:41pm Hariri said: No one can bet on a non-unified March 14 in the elections.

10:40pm Hariri said he supports centrist candidates who support Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and stability.

10:21pm The Palestinians have declined to the level of intra-Palestinian splits instead of defending the Palestine Cause.

10:20pm Hariri said the cause of Palestine is purely an Arab cause and criticized intra-Palestinian splits.

10:11pm Premier Saniora has been suffering for three years, Hariri said.

10:10pm Hariri declared: Corruption is the enemy of March 14.

10:09pm Hariri called for a parliamentary committee to investigate corruption charges and urged all parliamentary blocs to join his call.

10:08pm Hariri said the Doha Accord prevents a repeat of the May 7.

10:06pm He said the Hariri mansion is where all the Lebanese gather in a national binding unity. That is why Rafik Hariri was assassinated.

9:56pm Hariri said the March 8 factions are "mere corruption."

9:53pm Hariri said Walid Jumblat has the right to ask questions about performance of certain army directorates and his questions should be answered.

9:50pm Hariri declared: I support the Army, I support the state, I work for state building.

9:48pm We would accept any decision by the International Tribunal, Hariri said.

9:46pm He said the International Tribunal would be operational on March 1 despite that it falls on a Sunday.

9:45pm The International community would not allow political assassinations to persist in Lebanon, Hariri said.

9:44pm He said the March 14 masses are ahead of their leaders.

9:40pm Hariri said he did not forget the deep wound of May 7, but eventually i'll forgive.

9:38pm May 7 is a dark point in Lebanon's history carried out by March 8, Hariri said.

9:37pm Our masses are not tired, they are, as we are, ready for more sacrifices, Hariri said. They believe in independence, freedom and sovereignty.

9:36pm He said the wounds suffered by political assassinations remain fresh.

9:35pm He said Martyrs of the March 14 movement are not missed only by their families, but by the whole nation.

9:33pm Hariri termed shameful attacks on the rally called for Saturday to commemorate the fourth anniversary of his

father's assassination.

9:30pm Mustaqbal Movement leader Saad Hariri starts interview with LBC.

8:30pm Unidentified gunmen have kidnapped Middle East Airlines IT official Youssef Sader near Beirut Airport.

6:20pm Cabinet in session at Baabda Palace presided over by President Suleiman.

5:55pm U.S. Secretary of State Clinton Told Hariri the international community should be committed to achieving justice and putting an end to political crimes in Lebanon.

4:20pm Premier Fouad Saniora issued a decision forming a special committee to review prices of oil derivatives.

3:34pm: Fadlallah: We shall present a report to the parliament speaker detailing what has been achieved. If he finds that the answers we've reached are satisfactory, then we shall form a committee.

3:33pm: Fadlallah: In theory we have won this legal battle, government has to implement this and parliament is to monitor that.

3:30pm: Fadlallah: Our main fight is to return to the rule of law. I say with confidence we have made some major steps in safeguarding telephone calls, protecting the citizens right to personal security and social order and in returning the dispute to its

3:28pm: Fadlallah: If an MP is not satisfied with a minister's response she/he could question the matter. We are all agreed on forming a parliamentary investigative committee.

Fadlallah: Cabinet sets the needs of security forces and this is to be done without violating the law, otherwise cabinet has to present an amending draft for doing so.

3:24pm Fadlallah: Regarding permits that were being issued for counter terrorism cases; military command is committed to applying the law. If there are security needs then the law could be amended but not violated.

3:23pm: Fadlallah: What has been achieved regarding the wiretapping issue is an accomplishment. However, I cannot say that wiretapping is over. What is over is communications scanning.

3:22pm: Fadlallah: The minister of telecommunications presented models showing how the privacy of citizens was being violated. There was a quasi consensus in supporting steps for preventing that from happening.

3:21pm: Fadlallah: Wiretapping citizens was carried out in general. Judges used to issue warrants allowing that.

2:40pm: Former PM Najib Miqati following his meeting with President Suleiman: Regardless of the political noise there is no alternative to the ongoing national dialogue.

12:14pm: Defense Ministry ordered the suspension of all arms licenses from Feb. 13 to 15.

11:40am: Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir during his meeting of the Youth Shadow Government reiterated his support to a parliamentary centrist bloc, saying he is neither with March 8 nor March 14 Forces.

10:15am: March 14 Forces Secretariat General Coordinator Faris Soaid to Future TV: If there is proof that Telecommunications Minister Bassil has hidden data from security authorities, then he should be held responsible.

8:47am The Israeli army raised its alert level on the border with Lebanon on the occasion of Hizbullah commander Imad Mughniyah's 1st assassination anniversary.

8:46am VDL: An assailant riding a motorcycle threw the hand grenade on the abandoned building in Nuwairi's Nahhal neighborhood.

8:17am Tourism Minister Elie Marouni to VDL: We hope the issues of the Council for the South and the state budget would be separated. I suggested to the cabinet formation of a judicial committee that handles the issue of wiretapping.

8:11am NNA: A hand grenade went off at 6:30 am in an abandoned building in Nuwairi. No casualties were reported.

8:00am Future News TV: The Nuwairi blast took place in an old building and no casualties were reported.

7:45am VDL: An explosion was heard a short while ago in the vicinity of Nuwairi in Beirut.

Thursday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

17:17 Obama supports the UN in its efforts to bring the criminals involved with the Hariri murder to justice

16:57 Israel will declare today the final election results after the votes of the soldiers are counted

16:20 Ziad Baroud, the Minister of the Interior will hold a press conference Friday at 1 PM to announce the details on new centers for the processing of applications for identity cards using full electronic fingerprinting equipment that were funded by Germany

16:20 Premier Fouad Saniora issued a decision forming a special committee to review prices of oil derivatives.

14:56 MPs of the majority questioned Telecommunications Minister Gebran Bassil during Telecom Commission meeting about allegations that he was withholding information from security services. Also MP Marwan Hamadeh said that Syrian intelligence services were wiretapping everyone.

14:40 : Former PM Najib Miqati following his meeting with President Suleiman: Regardless of the political noise there is no alternative to the ongoing national dialogue.

13:56 ANB: Earthquake hits South Lebanon area of Srafa

13:10 Defense Ministry freezes arms licenses on commemoration weekend (from Feb. 13 to 15)

12:10 NOW Lebanon : fighting broke out between Hezbollah and Amal Movement students in Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the Lebanese University in Hadath; army tries to reduce tensions

11:40 : Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir during his meeting of the Youth Shadow Government reiterated his support to a parliamentary centrist bloc, saying he is neither with March 8 nor March 14 Forces.

11:03 MP Kamil Khoury: Maronite Bishops Council should convene to resolve Bkirki-March 8 rift

10:50 Security service officials and interior, justice and telecom ministers meet with Media and Telecommunications Commission in Nejme Square

10:29 March 14 Forces Secretariat General Coordinator Faris Soaid to Future TV: If there is proof that Telecommunications Minister Bassil has hidden data from security authorities, then he should be held responsible.

8:47 The Israeli army raised its level of alertness on the border with Lebanon on the occasion of Hezbollah commander Imad Mughniyeh's 1st assassination anniversary.

8:47 VOL: An unidentified man driving a motorcycle threw the bomb that exploded on An-Nahal Street in Nouwayri this morning, according to a witness. No casualties were reported.

8:28 Tourism Minister Elie Marouni told VOL: We hope the issues of the Council for the South and the state budget would be separated. I suggested to the cabinet formation of a judicial committee that handles the issue of wiretapping. calls for judicial committee to supervise wiretapping

8:11 NNA: A hand grenade went off at 6:30 am in an abandoned building in Nuwairi. No casualties were reported.

7:57 The explosion took place in an old building leaving no casualties, reports Future News

7:35 Future TV: A bomb has exploded near Al-Qelqas bakery in Nouwayri area in Beirut

2:58 Hamas and fatah reps are meeting in Cairo to discuss the return to dialogue

2:44 Al Jazeera : Israeli raid on the government security complex in Gaza

2:32 March 8th alliance : We won't allow the transfer of the detained officers to the Hague even if this will take another invasion of Beirut like last May 7

2:26 MP Marwan hamadah told el Seyassah: The transfer of the 4 detained officers to the Hague falls under Chapter seven and therefore does not require government approval. If the March 8th will try to prevent their transfer by using force then we won't be quiet about it , we can use force too

2:09 Sarkozy is urging Obama to be firm in dealing with Iran especially with regards to its nuclear program

2:00 Ahmadinejad : Obama wont change his policies because of the Israelis

1:48 The World community expressed hope that Israel will remain committed to the peace process

1:34 Gaddafi is calling for more EU aid to Africa

1:22 Obama called Peres to be briefed on the process of government formation

Live Coverage 2-11-2009 3:46pm OTV: Prosecutor General Saeed Mirza was admitted to hospital and his condition was described as critical.

2:00pm Security forces found the stolen vehicle of Jordanian MP Bassam Khalifeh in Deir al-Ahmar-Kneisseh.

1:45pm Speaker Nabih Berri called for a meeting of the joint committees next Tuesday.

1:30pm: Interior Minister Ziad Baroud: Issued a general directive for removing sect identity from all population registries.

1:00pm: Judge Nabil Sari heard the testimony of 3 witnesses into the Tripoli Banker's Street bombing.

12:41pm Gemayel: Lebanon has the right to hold indirect negotiations with Israel to solve the issue of the Shebaa Farms.

12:40pm Bkirki should not be criticized because the Cedar Revolution came as a result of the Maronite Bishops's statement in 2000, Gemayel said.

12:33pm Gemayel: I wish Gen. Michel Aoun would return to his principles. We fought the battle of independence and sovereignty together and we hope that we go back to the standards that we adopted in March 14.

12:30pm The Phalange party leader: We are in contact with the Tashnag party. Our hands are stretched to all.

12:28pm Gemayel: We are a force that has a presence and supporters in the Metn. We will meet with MP Michel Murr to agree on how to cooperate.

12:15pm Gemayel: The representation of the Phalange is a guarantee for the Christians's participation in state affairs because the party sticks to its principles.

12:00pm: Phalange leader Amin Gemayel at a press conference: It is time for Christians in Lebanon to regain their (political) role, following years of marginalization.

11:00am: Justice Minister Ibrahim Najjar to LBC TV: Within two months UNIIIC is expected to decide which witnesses and defendants would be brought from Lebanon to the Special Tribunal in the Hague, and the process for doing that.

10:45am: An-Nahar Assistant Director General Nayla Tueni visited Bkirki and briefed Maronite Patriarch Sfeir of her candidacy to run at the upcoming parliamentary elections.

10:40am: MP Samir Franjeh from Bkirki: To get out of his personal crisis MP Michel Aoun should not attack Bkirki, but rather review his own choices.

10:10am: MP Ali Khreis to Radio Free Lebanon: We have proposed a draft law calling for the closure of all funds and replacing all that with a ministry for planning.

10:05am: Tourism Minister Elie Marouni to Radio Free Lebanon: Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir is the head of the Church and MP Michel Aoun must respect that.

10:00am: Public schools strike in response to a call made by teachers's syndicates calling for settling issue between the state cooperative and private hospitals.

8:00am MP Ammar Houry to VDL: The attitude of some people, including threats to find a solution to the issue of the funds, is a blackmail.

7:15am MP Robert Ghanem to VDL: The Administrative and Justice Committee will start discussing a draft law that calls for the formation of a Planning Ministry.

Wednesday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

23:33 Former deputy speaker Elie Ferzli : Reconciliation between Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria is expected before end March and this will reflect positively on Lebanon

23:00 Lebanon Files: Rabih Habr, MD of Statistics Lebanon (a polling organization) is predicting that the current ruling majority will remain the majority after the upcoming elections and will win between 69 - 71 seats in the 128 seat parliament. Based on Habr's predictions the biggest loser will be General Aoun's FPM . Aoun will lose in the Metn and Batroun areas. Habr is independent and is not a member of any party

22:50 Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit arrived in Washington on a two-day official visit during which he will meet U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other U.S. officials.

22:31 Iran denies the existence of weapons on board an Iranian ship being held in Cyprus. This contradicts the information released by the Cypriot authorities

22:07 A Day 9of violence in Iraq: 23 dead and dozens injured in a series of explosions

21:48 Tsunami warning canceled after a massive earthquake hit Indonesia

21:37 3 mortar shells fell on the Eshkol from Gaza Strip.

21:13 March 14 leaders vowed that there will be no return of Syrian tutelage and called for the biggest rally ever in Martyrs Square on Saturday February 14, to mark the 4th anniversary of the assassination of former PM Rafik Hariri

18:00 A Shiite member of Hezbollah tried to prevent an MEA passenger from drinking alcohol on flight 212 from Paris to Beirut . Fight broke out between the 2 but the airline crew intervened to resolve the issue.

17:35 Lebanon asked Morocco to extradite Lebanese banker Roger Tamraz who was arrested in Morocco last month but wanted in Lebanon over the collapse of Bank Intra

17:30 Future Website : Former Iranian President Mohammed Khatami said Hariri was killed by terrorism." "I loved him and we as in Lebanon miss him…he believed in dialogue, human development and freedom." He added

17:15 PM Siniora : Monday night all documents related to the international investigation were transferred to The Hague by The international commission investigating the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri

17:14 MP Salim Sayegh : The aim of the elections is to prevent Hezbollah from controlling the parliament

16:53 Patriarch Sfeir told the Maronites : Bkirki is not for me ..it is for all of you ...protect it !

16:52 March 14 MPs call for maximum participation in the February 14 demonstration , that marks the 4th anniversary of the assassination of former PM Hariri

16:16 Georgia accuses Russia of trespassing deep in its territories

16:15 VOL: judge Mirza is in stable condition and is undergoing medical tests.

16:13 Iran : Our relations with Saudi Arabia are excellent and we are working on strengthening them

15:54 Prosecutor General Saeed Mirza suddenly fell ill and is now at Hotel Dieu for treatment , his condition was described as critical.

15:45 Speaker Berri : Proportional representation is better than majority representation. We need to "remove the intolerance and sectarianism from the hearts and minds and souls," he said, "The abolishment of sectarianism start of the school " he told a delegation of the students

15:27 Al Arabiya: 16 killed and 43 wounded in an explosion in Baghdad

14:46 President Suleiman and accompanying delegation returned to Beirut on a private plane ending his official visits to Bahrain and UAE

14:00 Security forces found the stolen vehicle of Jordanian MP Bassam Khalifeh in Deir al-Ahmar-Kneisseh.

13:45 Speaker Nabih Berri called for a meeting of the joint committees next Tuesday.

13:30 : Interior Minister Ziad Baroud issued a general directive for removing sect identity from all population registries.

13:00 : Judge Nabil Sari heard the testimony of 3 witnesses into the Tripoli Banker’s Street bombing.

12:41 Phalange leader Amin Gemayel at a press conference: It is time for Christians in Lebanon to regain their (political) role. I wish Gen. Michel Aoun would return to his principles. Bkirki should not be criticized because the Cedar Revolution came as a result of the Maronite Bishops’ statement in 2000. We are in contact with the Tashnag party. Our hands are stretched to all Lebanon has the right to hold indirect negotiations with Israel to solve the issue of the Shebaa Farms. We urge the March 14 forces to make electoral alliances based on partnership and democracy

11:38 Gasoline and gas prices increase slightly. The new prices are : Unleaded Gas 98 Octane: 24,900 LL / 20 liters. Unleaded Gas 95 Octane: 24,200 LL. Diesel: 14,900 LL/ 20 liters. Natural gas tanks : 13,700 LL / 10 kg

11:20 Justice Minister Ibrahim Najjar told LBC : The Special Tribunal would decide which suspects and witnesses would be transferred from Lebanon to The Hague . Najjar approved Bellemare’s message to the Lebanese, which called for separating political bickering from the tribunal

10:57 MP Antoine Zahra told the Free Lebanon radio : Aoun will escalate tone until election day in response to his dwindling political power.

10:45 : An-Nahar Assistant Director General Nayla Tueni (daughter of slain leader Gebran Tueni) visited Bkirki and briefed Maronite Patriarch Sfeir of her candidacy to run in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

10:40 : MP Samir Franjeh from Bkirki: To get out of his personal crisis MP Michel Aoun should not attack Bkirki, but rather review his own choices. He added: "such a step would need courage on Aoun’s part to admit his mistakes and amend them."

10:39 MP Ammar Hourri told Future TV : Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir’s stances were based on patriotic values, whoever attacks him is desperate (in reference to Gen Aoun). Hourri supports the dialogue

10:29 Development and Liberation bloc submits bill proposal on Planning Ministry

10:10 : MP Ali Khreis to Radio Free Lebanon: We have proposed a draft law calling for the closure of all funds and replacing all that with a ministry for planning.

10:05 : Tourism Minister Elie Marouni to Radio Free Lebanon: Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir is the head of the Church and MP Michel Aoun must respect that. He accuses Berri of obstructing cabinet's work

10:00 : Public schools strike in response to a call made by teachers’ syndicates calling for settling issue between the state cooperative and private hospitals.

7:15 MP Robert Ghanem told VOL: The Administrative and Justice Committee will start discussing a draft law that calls for the formation of a Planning ministry

04:20 Al - Akhbar : Berri said the 60 Billion LL for the council of the south is not negotiable.

03:50 Al Anwar : The 10 Puma helicopters that the UAE has donated to Lebanon have been refurbished and updated and each can transport 24 soldiers

02:00 Future MPs Mustafa Hachem and Mustafa Allouch have received death threats from Fatah Al-Islam . "The security services have warned the MPs concerned that they could be targets," An army spokesman said

01:30 The Syrian regime has a list of 10 candidates that it considers the most loyal to Syria and wants Hezbollah, Amal and FPM to include in their electoral lists. They are:
Assaad Hardan, Marqan Farris (SSNP) Qassem Hashem (Baath) Assem Qanso (Baath) Adnan Arkaji, Nasser Qandil, Michel Samaha (independents) Ali Qanso , Ghaleb Qandil , Fayez Shukr (Baath) . March 8 , according to inside sources not too happy with the Syrian demand , because they consider themselves very loyal to Syria

01:00 Exit polls projected that Livni and her centrist Kadima Party would edge out former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his conservative Likud Party by 30 seats to 26 in the 120-seat parliament.

01:00 Exit polls projected that Israeli "Our Home" party of Avigdor Lieberman won 15 seats, fewer than expected but still enough to make it Israel's third-most important political party.

Kadima said its leader Tzipi Livni should become prime minister after exit polls showed it narrowly ahead of its right-wing rival Likud in the general election.

Kadima lays claim to Israeli premiership after election.

Israeli TV: Kadima won 30 seats while Likud got 28.

Live Coverage 2-10-2009 8:30pm Geagea during a press conference: Some security forces are excited about showing off their muscles. We will show off our muscles at court.

8:18pm: PM Fouad Saniora to al-Mustaqbal News TV: Files relating to the Special International Tribunal for Lebanon are now in the Hague.

7:25pm LF leader Samir Geagea received Interior Minister Ziad Baroud in Maarab.

7:20am The British military attaché in Lebanon, accompanied by Security adviser at the British Foreign Office, inspected Arida and Abboudiyeh crossings on Lebanon’s northern border with Syria.

5:24pm: Aoun: Patriarch Sfeir is free to express his opinion. However, he does not speak for the Christians

5:23pm: Aoun: Christian society is democratic, the Patriarch remains silent and his stance is with March 14 Forces and is not a centrist. This means he is against the opposition.

5:21pm: Aoun: If Syria can carry out 14 crimes without being caught, then we should seek political asylum in Syria for protection.

5:20pm: Aoun: The Military Intelligence Branch has exposed one crime out of 14 and this is a failure.

5:16pm: Aoun: Syria has supported us politically and vitally during the war by opening the borders when we were under siege.

5:12pm: Aoun: Jumblat wants the mountain to remain free of any security monitoring in order to smuggle his representatives to the region and act illegally.

4:59pm: Aoun: In the past MTV was prevented from entering Qorietem, has anyone prevented anybody from entering the southern suburb of Beirut?

4:54pm: Aoun: Iran and Syria have helped us and they deserve our respect, they took nothing from us.

4:53pm: Aoun: We won’t kneel, that is why we are subject to political accusation, regional and international rumors.

4:51pm: Aoun: I guarantee all Lebanese that within two years you would have a state, that security, economy and all related services would be guaranteed at a reasonable price.

4:50pm: Aoun: Our national debt is at \$51 billion, this means that every Lebanese owes \$17,000 for a hundred years.

4:47pm: Aoun: Some religious authorities have been speaking of corruption since the 1990s, and now would you consider an electoral victory by the opposition to constitute a black future for Lebanon?

4:46pm: Aoun: Yes, we do politically cut tongues.

4:44pm: Aoun: The military intelligence branch is an apparatus of the al-Mustaqbal movement.

4:43pm: Aoun: The campaign against (minister) Bassil aims to draw the curtain on his reforms and for reducing the phone bill. The scandal is in those that preceded him in position.

4:40pm: Aoun: Mayors have no powers outside their villages, towns and overseas as mayors loyal to March 14 Forces

do. I call on the ministries of the interior and foreign affairs to take a stance on this.

4:38pm: Aoun: There is a 'legal game' that returns the inheritance of a Muslim that has no inheritors to Islamic endowments, while for Christians the state takes over. We ask that the state would receive the inheritance of anyone with no inheritors.

4:30pm: MP Michel Aoun following the meeting of the Change and Reform Parliamentary bloc: I did not participate in the St. Maroun mass because I do not attend public celebrations unless they are extremely important and under heavy security.

4:15pm: PM Fouad Saniora issues a general order for all official convoys to turn off their jamming devices when entering Beirut's International Airport so as not to confuse and deter communication between the control tower and aircrafts.

3:45pm: Ministry of Interior announces primary electoral lists ready, copies of which were sent to municipalities and mayors.

3:41pm: PM Fouad Saniora headed a meeting over developments of the oil excavation law, meeting attended by Energy Minister Alian Tabourian and others.

3:40pm: MP Azam al-Dandashi submitted a draft law for establishing a special council for developing Akkar region.

1:38pm President Michel Suleiman began a 2-day official visit to the UAE after ending his trip to Bahrain.

1:30pm Brig. Gen. Ali Hajj refrained for the third time to appear in court to confront leading Fatah al-Islam suspect Ahmed Merhi.

12:10pm: All public institutions and public and private teaching institutions would close on Feb. 14 on the occasion of the 4th assassination anniversary of ex-PM Rafik Hariri.

11:05am MP Nabil Nicola to New TV: I didn't understand the issue of Christian moderates. Are we carrying swords and killing other sects?

11:00am PM Fouad Saniora called Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir to relay his greetings on the occasion of St. Maroun day.

10:35am Fattat: I have information that Telecommunications Minister Jebran Bassil is still withholding information from security apparatuses.

10:30am MP Ahmed Fattat to Future News: What is happening in the issue of the Council for the South is a financial and political showoff under the cover of developing southern Lebanon.

8:45am Najjar: The assassination anniversary of ex-PM Rafik Hariri on Feb. 14 would be a gathering for those striving for full sovereignty, freedom and the success of the Cedar Revolution in 2009.

8:40am Justice Minister Ibrahim Najjar to VDL: If a Constitutional Council was not formed before the parliamentary elections, there would a major democratic setback in Lebanon.

Tuesday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

23:00 Kadima said its leader Tzipi Livni should become prime minister after exit polls showed it ahead of its right-wing rival Likud in the general election.

22:50 Kadima lays claim to Israeli premiership after election, based on exit polls

22:40 Israeli TV: Kadima won 30 seats while Likud got 28, based on exit polls

22:30 Avigdor Lieberman, the far-right leader, came in third, ahead of Ehud Barak, based on exit polls

20:50 MP Saad Hariri: 'We, March 14 Alliance, are now stronger and more resilient than ever, and will complete former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's plan to lead Lebanon to safe shores.'

20:30 Geagea during a press conference: Some security forces are excited about showing off their muscles. We will show off our muscles at court. Called for massive participation in February 14 commemoration

20:25 : PM Fouad Saniora told Future TV: Files relating to the Special International Tribunal for Lebanon are now in the Hague. Lebanon has pledged to pay 49% of the expenses of the international tribunal. Transferring suspects to the international tribunal at The Hague requires Cabinet approval

19:49 US Senate approves \$838 billion economic stimulus plan. The stock market reacted negatively to the news and Dow dropped below 8000

19:25 LF leader Samir Geagea received Interior Minister Ziad Baroud in Maarab.

19:20 The British military attaché in Lebanon, accompanied by Security adviser at the British Foreign Office, inspected Arida and Abboudiyeh crossings on Lebanon's northern border with Syria.

18:11 March 14 Secretary General will hold a meeting tomorrow at noon at the Ashrafiyah headquarters

18:06 Amnesty International : Hamas is killing , torturing and persecuting its opponents in Gaza

17:52 Interior Minister Ziad Baroud is meeting at his office in the ministry Lebanese Forces MP Antoine Zahra

17:36 UAE donates 10 Puma helicopters to Lebanon the day president Suleiman arrived there on an official 2-day visit . The Puma helicopters are French made twin engine aircraft

17: 30 MP Michel Aoun : "Iran and Syria have helped us and they deserve our respect... Syria has supported us politically and vitally during the war..." In reference to the 14 assassinations in Lebanon for which Syria was blamed he said : "If Syria can carry out 14 crimes without being caught, then we should seek political asylum in Syria for protection". Aoun , who is allied with the Iranian and Syrian backed Hezbollah Shiite militants attacked patriarch Sfeir and said " He has no right to speak on behalf of the Christians"

16:15 :PM Fouad Siniora issues a general order for all official convoys to turn off their jamming devices when entering Beirut's International Airport so as not to confuse and deter communication between the control tower and aircrafts.

15:46 MPs Safadi and Abdel Aziz called for a huge turnout by their constituents in northern Lebanon on February 14 to

mark the 4th anniversary of the assassination of Hariri

15:45 : Ministry of Interior announces primary electoral lists ready, copies of which were sent to municipalities and mayors.

15:41 : PM Siniora headed a meeting over developments of the oil excavation law, meeting attended by Energy Minister Alain Tabourian and others.

15:28 Baroud : I am committed to providing the suitable ambience and security for the elections

15:12 MP Ziadeh calls on Kesrwan region to participate heavily in February 14 demonstration to mark the 4th anniversary of the assassination of Hariri

14:07 MP Azzam Dandach submits proposal to form development council for Akkar, since he said the state neglected the development needs of the region.

13:38 President Michel Suleiman began an official 2-day visit to the UAE after ending his trip to Bahrain.

13:30 Jailed Brig. Gen. Ali Hajj refused for the third time to appear in court to confront leading Fatah al-Islam suspect Ahmed Merhi.

12:08 Prime Minister Fouad Siniora designates February 14 a public holiday. All public institutions and public and private teaching institutions will be closed

11:07 MP Fouad al-Saad from Bkirki: If Jebran Bassil is withholding information related to the international tribunal from security apparatuses, then he has to be put on trial.

11:00 PM Fouad Saniora called Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir to relay his greetings on the occasion of St. Maroun day.

10:41 MP Nabil Nicolas calls on centrist bloc to announce its agenda. " I didn't understand the issue of Christian moderates." He said. Defended Hezbollah 's illegal " Hezbollah's network was in place only to assure that no one conducted phone surveillance on the party." He said

10:39 Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said he is ready for dialogue with Washington on basis of mutual respect. He added : " I officially announce that Iran today is a real and true super power," he said, referring to Iran's "scientific achievements"

10:11 MP Ahmad Fafat spoke told Future TV: participation in the 4th commemoration of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's assassination on February 14, is to show the May 7 events' failure to intimidate the Lebanese people. He added " I have information that Telecommunications Minister Jebran Bassil is still withholding information from security apparatuses.

08:35 Justice Minister Ibrahim Najjar : Cabinet's work had become limited after the Doha Agreement due to the obstructing third vote granted to the opposition . He added : "Feb. 14 would be a gathering for those striving for full sovereignty, freedom and the success of the Cedar Revolution."

08:21 French President Nicolas Sarkozy arrives in Baghdad on a surprise visit. It is the first visit to the country by a French president.

07:04 Polls open for Israeli parliamentary elections; tight race expected between Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni

U.N. Investigators in Syria on Eve of Hariri's Murder Anniversary Kerry Includes Lebanon in Mideast Tour Wiretapping Crisis Escalates As Police Chief Accuses Bassil of Withholding Data Feltman Says U.S. Support for Tribunal Is 'Non-Negotiable' and 'Irreversible' 12,000 Employees Manning Polling Centers Will Be Able to Vote U.S. Provides \$12 Million to Lebanese Police Hariri Would Not Forget May 7, But Would Eventually Forgive Jumblat to Send 'Positive' Message to Hizbullah at Feb. 14 Rally Clinton Stresses Full Support for Lebanon, Pledges \$6 Million for Tribunal State Budget Again Postponed Till Next Thursday Berri Blames Saniora for Withholding South Council Funds, Labels Move 'Real Conspiracy' Nayla Tueni: Martyrs' Blood Liberated Lebanon Obama Supports U.N. Moves to Punish Hariri Killers Gunmen Snatch MEA Official at Beirut Airport Witnesses to Hariri Crime Transferred to The Hague Qassem: Lebanon Should Not be a Follower, Cooperation is Needed Students Clash at Lebanese University Law School Baroud Suspends Sect Registration at Population Registry Sfeir Renews Support for Centrist Bloc, Says He is Neither With March 8 Nor March 14 Israeli Troops on High Alert for Anniversary of Mughniyeh's Assassination Families of Buhas Victims Legally Seek Bassil's Testimony Four Speakers to Address Feb. 14 Crowd Shatah: Proposing Projects, Not Amounts Key to Solving South Council Crisis Hand Grenade Goes Off in Beirut, No Casualties March 14, Bassil Preparing for New Round of Confrontation in Parliament March 14 Rejects Foreign Influence, Calls Partisans to Chant for Lebanon on Saturday Moawad Won't Run in 2009 Jumblat in Baabda Soon to Clarify Stance on Army Berri and Aoun Follow the Same Path Hariri: I Won't Take Part in New Government if March 8 Wins Elections Sarkozy Determined to Bring Hariri Killers to Justice Yakan to Nominate Candidates All Over Lebanon Nazik Hariri Remembers Slain Husband Sfeir: Bkirki is for All Christians Jumblat … to Suspend or Not to Suspend Participation in National Dialogue? Prosecutor General Mirza Hospitalized Najjar: Government Has No Say in Four General's Fate Police Find Stolen Car of Jordanian MP Hariri Case Documents Relocated to The Hague Hariri: No More Hegemony over Lebanon No Matter How Hard Syria Tried