

## Naharnet / NNA News Feb. 20-24, 2009

Contributed by Naharnet, Yalibnan, LBC, NNA.GOV.LB  
Tuesday, 24 February 2009

Second Victim in Feb. 14 Confrontations Dies, Zeineddine's Killer in Judicial Custody, Vincent: Hariri Court to Conduct Trial in Absentia if Syria Refuses to Hand Over Witnesses

Second Victim in Feb. 14 Confrontations Dies, Zeineddine's Killer in Judicial Custody

News reports on Tuesday said a second victim has died from wounds he suffered during clashes that took place at a Feb. 14 rally marking the fourth anniversary of ex-Premier Rafik Hariri's assassination as the killer of the first fatality was sent to judicial custody.

Local media identified the victim as Khaled Toaimeh, 20.

A forensic doctor who examined the body said Toaimeh died after his heart stopped beating as a result of severe beating.

He said Toaimeh, from the village of al-Faour in East Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, passed away Monday night.

After news of Toaimeh's death, Faour residents tried to block the main road in the village.

Lebanese army troops, however, swiftly stepped in, firing shots in the air to disperse the crowd.

The first victim, Lutfi Zeineddine, 50, died Feb. 15, a day after attackers, armed with sticks, knives and stones, assaulted him wounding 30 other rally participants.

In a related event, the Lebanese army on Tuesday handed over 10 detainees in connection with the Feb. 14 clashes to Judge Saeed Mirza, including Zeineddine's killer.

Beirut, 24 Feb 09, 08:51

<http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/NewsDesk.nsf/getstory?openform&7216550788172A84C22575670030FFF1>

Vincent: Hariri Court to Conduct Trial in Absentia if Syria Refuses to Hand Over Witnesses

The international tribunal's Registrar Robin Vincent has said that failure by Syria to hand over witnesses to the assassination of former Premier Rafik Hariri could compel the court to conduct trial in absentia.

If Syria failed to cooperate in this regard, it will be a "blow" to the Security Council, Vincent said in remarks published on Tuesday.

Vincent warned that Syria's negative response could compel the court to conduct trial in absentia.

He pointed to measures being considered for the protection of the witnesses.

Vincent also spoke of "guarantees" to ensure the wellbeing of the witnesses, stressing that Dutch police enjoy excellent experience in this respect.

He said that the trials could last for more than six years.

Beirut, 24 Feb 09, 10:12

<http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/NewsDesk.nsf/getstory?openform&7216550788172A84C22575670030FFF1>

Vincent: Hariri Court to Conduct Trial in Absentia if Syria Refuses to Hand Over Witnesses  
 Second Victim in Feb. 14 Confrontations Dies, Zeineddine's Killer in Judicial Custody  
 Tribunal to Open Doors to Journalists on Tuesday  
 Solana to Visit Beirut  
 Qassem: We Are Ready To Pay An Acceptable Price For a National Unity Government  
 Lebanon Demands Compensation from Israel for its July War  
 Jumblat: No Way to Settle Shabaa Issue Without Formal Syrian Approval  
 Classes Continue at USJ after LF, Hizbullah Fighting  
 Suleiman: Proportional Representation Could Have Helped Solve Many Problems  
 Lebanon Demands Execution for 16 Terrorist Suspects Linked to al-Qaida  
 Aoun to Lebanese: Your Voice is Your Rifle, Don't Sell Your Vote  
 Morocco Releases Tamraz despite Lebanon's Extradition Request  
 Lawyer of LBC's Daher: Judge Should Step Down  
 Computer Containing Sayyed Files Stolen from Attorney's Office  
 The Tribunal will Ask Transfer of 4 Generals to The Hague, All Trials to Be Broadcast  
 Phalange: Grenade Attacks Intimidation Messages Ahead of Elections  
 Bellemare Pays Farewell Visits to Berri, Saniora  
 Qaouq: Hizbullah Will Defeat Financial Invasion in June Elections  
 Hand Grenade Found Near Beirut Hospital  
 Vehicle of Lebanese Belonging Movement Official Set Ablaze  
 Gunmen who Assaulted Officer in Southern Suburbs Might be Handed Over  
 Suleiman Initiative Soon to End Saniora-Berri Bickering  
 Election Fever in Sidon  
 Saad: Welcome to the Mother of All Battles  
 40-Member Delegation to Inform Suleiman about Ways to Deal with Deteriorating Situation  
 Palestinian, UAE Citizen Arrested Near Ain el-Hilweh  
 Officer Attacked in Southern Suburbs  
 Fifteen Suspects in Feb. 14 Attacks Still in Custody  
 Berri, Saniora Word-Breaking War over State Budget  
 Katyusha Attack: Iranian Reaction or Message to Syria!  
 Families of May 7 Detainees Call for Tripoli Sit-In  
 Israel Shells Southern Lebanon in Response to Firing of Rockets  
 Suleiman: Rocket Attack is a Challenge to National Will  
 Geagea Urges Authorities to Pin Down Rocket Attackers  
 Jumblat Renews Faith in State, Says May 7 Over  
 Berri Says 2009 Polls Will Bring National Unity Government  
 Saniora Vows Not to Succumb to Intimidation  
 Franjeh: Refusal to Participate in Future Government Is a Crime  
 Suleiman: A Nation Cannot be Built By Military Rule  
 Sfeir Urges Security Forces to Find MEA Employee 'At Any Cost'  
 Murr Attends Top Arms Show in UAE  
 Live Coverage

4:22pm Vincent: The public prosecutor will talk about the witnesses and the suspects in the right time. He has upheld the secretive nature of the investigation.

4:20pm Vincent: This tribunal does not have the authority to operate as part of Chapter Seven provisions.

6:18pm Vincent: Our liaison office in Beirut must support the investigations and is being used by both the defense and prosecution as needed to communicate with the media and take the necessary measures to help those traveling to The Hague.

4:16pm Vincent: We met with the area's residents to explain what was happening in the tribunal's premises and to assure there is nothing to worry about.

4:14pm Vincent: We did not face any protest to our work in the area where the tribunal is based instead you can see flowers on the street. This is a positive sign.

4:13 pm Vincent: We cannot separate between what we can publicly disclose and between what we cannot. All rules of privacy will be applicable once the tribunal starts operations.

4:12pm Tribunal's communications officer: We chose not to open the tribunal to the public preferring instead media broadcasting because of space considerations.

4:08pm Spokeswoman for the tribunal Suzan Khan: Nadia Ashour will act as special spokesperson for the public prosecutor's office.

4:03pm Defense representative: A defense attorney must be on the list of lawyers with a high degree of expertise.

4:01pm Representative for the defense office at the press conference: Our mission is to protect the rights of the accused.

3:54pm Vincent: We have more funds than we need for the first year of the tribunal.

3:53pm Vincent said that while financial support is important in the formation of the tribunal but international support is even more important.

3:52pm Vincent: With relation to funding, I am grateful that the budget for next year has been provided in full. The Lebanese government provided 49 percent of the budget.

3:51 Vincent: This tribunal has adopted three official languages: French, Arabic and English.

3:49 Vincent: The public prosecutor is the driving force behind the tribunal with relation to appointing staff members.

3:47pm Vincent: We received more than 6000 job applications. This in itself is a challenge and we do not follow a specific recruitment policy.

3:45 Vincent: This Tribunal is different from all the other international tribunals. Each tribunal is unique in the challenges it faces.

3:42pm Vincent: The relationship with the media is important to help people understand what is happening in the Tribunal. We will have a press office in Beirut to help with the dissemination of information

3:42 Vincent: The key to the tribunal is transparency

2:40pm Justice Minister Ibrahim Najjar will hold a press conference on Thursday at 11 am to convey a message to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon on the eve of its commencement.

1:48pm Bellemare visited General Prosecutor Saeed Mirza.

1:18pm PM Saniora from the Grand Serail: I don't have any information about a meeting with Speaker Berri at Baabda Palace tomorrow or about reaching a solution on the Council of the South crisis.

12:40pm Bellemare met with Justice Minister Ibrahim Najjar in a farewell visit.

12:15pm Chief U.N. investigator Daniel Bellemare met with Defense Minister Elias Murr at his office in Yarze.

12:00pm Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir: The seat of the Maronite church is not with any party against the other.

11:30am The Army's intelligence directorate handed to Examining Magistrate Saeed Mirza 10 suspects who

were arrested for attacking March 14 supporters attending a rally marking ex-PM Rafik Hariri's murder on Feb 14.  
 11:00am Hizbullah denounced in a statement Israel for ordering hundreds of Palestinians to leave their homes in annexed east Jerusalem.  
 10:30am MP Antoine Zahra to TL: The LF is preparing for the elections with calm and insisting on the building of the state and its institutions.  
 10:00am MP Hagop Pakradounian to al-Manar TV: We held several meetings with the Phalange but we didn't reach any agreement yet.  
 8:32am VDL: Khaled Toaimh, 20, died from wounds he suffered during attacks on March 14 supporters on the 4th anniversary of ex-PM Rafik Hariri's murder.

Monday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

14:06 Palestinian Authority representative in Lebanon, Abbas Zaki, announced from Grand Serail that the reconstruction of Nahr al-Bared refugee camp will begin on March 9  
 14:01 Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Mouallem and his accompanying delegation arrived in Riyadh  
 13:48 Bellemare visited General Prosecutor Saeed Mirza.  
 13:30 Bellemare to address Lebanese people end February and will hold a press conference March 1 in the Hague , the first day of the operation of the tribunal  
 13:18 PM Siniora from the Grand Serail: I don't have any information about a meeting with Speaker Berri at Baabda Palace tomorrow or about reaching a solution on the Council of the South crisis.  
 12:40 Bellemare met with Justice Minister Ibrahim Najjar in a farewell visit.  
 12:15 Chief U.N. investigator Daniel Bellemare met with Defense Minister Elias Murr at his office in Yarze.  
 12:02 Israel files formal complaint to Security Council against rocket launching from South Lebanon and holds the Lebanese government responsible  
 12:00 Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir: The seat of the Maronite church is not with any party against the other.  
 11:30 The Army's intelligence directorate handed to Examining Magistrate Saeed Mirza 10 suspects who were arrested for attacking March 14 supporters attending a rally marking ex-PM Rafik Hariri's murder on Feb 14.  
 11:00am Hezbollah denounced in a statement Israel for ordering hundreds of Palestinians to leave their homes in annexed east Jerusalem.  
 10:30 MP Antoine Zahra to TL: The LF is preparing for the elections with calm and insisting on the building of the state and its institutions.  
 10:00 MP Hagop Pakradounian to al-Manar TV: We held several meetings with the Phalange but we didn't reach any agreement yet.  
 8:45 Environment Minister Tony Karam told VOL: The ministerial committee didn't achieve anything because it was shot at by Speaker Nabih Berri. No indications budget controversy will be resolved soon  
 08:24 Khaled Mahmoud Toaimh, 20, from the village al-Faour in East Lebanon's Bekaa Valley dies of injuries inflicted by March 8 members after Hariri commemoration on February 14  
 2:40 Egyptian economists are worried about the Egyptian economy due to drop in revenues of the Suez Canal  
 2:15 UAE: arms contracts worth 692 million dollars signed  
 1:37 Clinton to visit Middle East next month, and this week Mitchell is coming  
 0:44 PLO calls on Obama to intervene to stop the demolition of a Palestinian district of Jerusalem  
 0:31 Solana heading to Syria to push for resumption of talks with Israel  
 0:18 Gilad is in talks with Egypt, despite the suspension of his duties( replaced by another Israeli envoy)

Live Coverage 2-23-2009 8:00pm Moroccan authorities decided to release Lebanese businessman Roger Tamraz despite a request by Lebanese judicial authorities to extradite him.

6:40pm The Phalange Party at the end of its weekly politburo meeting: There are some who are seeking to direct election-related intimidating messages.

5:20pm PSP leader Walid Jumblat received Sayyed Ali al-Amin in his residence in Clemenceau and the two men discussed the current situation.

4:52pm Aoun: Michel Murr walked out of the bloc since the election campaign started.

4:50pm Aoun: Holding election on a single-day is not healthy. We heard Jumblat saying during the 2005 elections that civil war will erupt if he won in Baabda.

4:47pm Aoun addressing citizens: I tell you that your voice is your rifle. Do not sell your rifle for \$1,000 or let anyone strip you of your choice.

4:42pm Aoun: We proposed the formation of a parliamentary security committee that would look into the security situation in southern Lebanon, but no one wanted to cooperate fearing accountability.

4:40pm Aoun: the Shoura Council seems to have become a surplus; and the government does not implement its rulings.

4:38pm Aoun: We put up electoral advertisements that suit everybody. Some, however, believed they were provocative and burned them down.

4:35pm FPM leader Gen. Michel Aoun following meeting of the movement: Recurrent attacks on sacred places are a

sign of disrespect to human rights charter.

- 1:15pm Chief U.N. investigator Daniel Bellemare paid farewell visits to Speaker Nabih Berri and Premier Fouad Saniora.
- 1:05pm A hand grenade was found near al-Hayat hospital in Ain al-Rummaneh.
- 12:50pm Hizbullah's official in south Lebanon Sheikh Nabil Qaouq: The resistance will defeat the financial invasion in the 2009 elections. The polls, particularly in the south, will be a referendum on the resistance.
- 12:15pm Speaker Nabih Berri in a statement: We ask the Organization of Islamic Conference, the Arab League and the U.N. to condemn the Israeli crime and stop the destruction of homes south of al-Aqsa mosque.
- 11:40am Interior Ministry Ziad Baroud visited the Baabda police station where he inspected work underway to receive demands for citizen IDs ahead of elections.
- 10:45am Minister Ibrahim Najjar to Future News: Security forces should pursue those who attacked the policeman in Beirut's southern suburbs. The party that controls the area should stop arming.
- 9:00am Finance Minister Mohammed Shatah to VDL: It has become clear that the issue of the Council of the South is not financial. It has become a political issue and even the word "political" can no longer describe it.
- 8:35am VDL: Three people stole LL5 million from a gas station in Nahr el-Mot area opposite City Mall.
- 8:34am VDL: Unknown assailants torched the vehicle of Ahmed al-Asaad, who heads the Lebanese Belonging Movement in the southern town of Khiam. Movement member Issam Asaad al-Abdullah uses the Nissan, according to the radio station.
- 8:15am: Heavy traffic reported at Beirut entrances as a result of bad weather conditions and heavy rain.

Monday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

- 23:59 Protesters throw shoes at an Israeli officer in the Netherlands
- 23:48 Pakistan announced the suspension of operations against the Taliban in the Swat valley
- 22:50 Tourism Minister Maroni: we are concerned that obstruction and disruption of the Doha agreement could take place just before the elections elections
- 22:27 MP Hubaish : March 8 knows very well that March 14 will again be the majority in the 2009 elections
- 22:00 Hariri calls Egyptian Foreign Minister Aboul Gheith to condemn that explosion in Cairo
- 22:00 Today will be the first performance of Arabesque, Arts of the Arab World , at the Kennedy center in Washington DC. The title of today's show is : Oud Knights with Amina and Shayma: When Oud Speaks
- 21:35 Netanyahu: Israel is in a state of emergency after Kadima and Labor parties refused to participate in the government
- 21:23 Pakistani forces killed 10 members of the Taliban
- 21:10 US to grant \$900 million for Gaza reconstruction
- 20:50 MP Michel Aoun : &ldquo;Have the Jews gone back to their old habits of mocking Christ?&rdquo; H added &ldquo;Had anyone mocked the Jews, he would have been tried for anti-Semitism. We hope that Jews respect our beliefs.&rdquo;
- 20:00 Moroccan authorities decided to release Lebanese businessman Roger Tamraz despite a request by Lebanese judicial authorities to extradite him.
- 18:55 Abbas calls for the resumption of peace talks based on a two state solution
- 18:42 Hourri : Our experience iith granting a one third destructive share is rejected and the forthcoming elections are fateful
- 17:57 UN representative Williams : it is not in Lebanon's interest for the situation to deteriorate along the Blue Line in southern Lebanon
- 17:42 Hezbollah students initiated a clash against the Lebanese Forces students at the University of St. Joseph . This incident required the intervention of Internal security forces.
- 17:00 An Nahar : President Michel Suleiman may soon step in to end the bickering between prime minister Fouad Siniora and Speaker Nabih Berri over the Council of the South crises
- 16:55 An Nahar : The gunmen involved in the attack against Lebanese security officer Tarek al-Zein may be handed to the Lebanese authorities by the party behind the attack which is widely believed to be Hezbollah, since the incident occurred after police attempted to put an end to a building violation. The owner of the building is Mohammed Kassab, the brother of Hezbollah's security committee chief in Burj al-Barajneh , a Hezbollah stronghold in the Dahyia, a southern Beirut suburb
- 16:52 Paris urges Israel not to demolish houses belonging to Palestinians in Jerusalem
- 16:52 : Aoun tells the Lebanese : Your voice is your rifle ...Don't not sell your voice for \$1,000
- 16:52 FPM leader Gen. Michel Aoun following meeting of the movement: Holding election on a single-day is not healthy . Michel Murr walked out of the change and Reform bloc since the election campaign started.
- 16:36 Information Minister Tarek Mitri confirmed Lebanon's desire to have good and friendly relations with Syria, but stressed that this should be a relationship between 2 independent and sovereign nations . Mitri expressed concern about the possibility of violence prior to the upcoming elections. ( pro-Syrian Palestinian militant factions are being blamed for the firing of rockets towards Israel with the purpose of obstructing the elections in Lebanon)
- 16:28 Hezbollah deputy chief Naim Qassem: The resistance is Lebanon's fence against the enemy and its success brings success to Lebanon's economy , politics and citizens
- 16:26 The International Criminal Court said that on March 4 it would decide whether it will issue an arrest warrant for Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir, who is accused for crimes in Darfur
- 15:45 The orchards in the shouf village of Ain Qaniyee were damaged by the heavy rain and the people called the Ministry of Agriculture to inspect the damage and to compensate the residents

15:39 Minister Aridi : It should be impossible for any institution in the country to be outside the control of the state especially the council of construction and development

15:15 Salloukh arrived in Brussels to participate in the meeting of the European Partnership

15:10 Beirut Stock Exchange: We do not have any branch in Virdin area and we have nothing to do with any incident there

14:38 EU concerned over Netanyahu's lack of commitment to peace talks

13:15 Chief U.N. investigator Daniel Bellemare paid farewell visits to Speaker Berri and PM Siniora.

13:05 A hand grenade was found near al-Hayat hospital in Ain al-Rummaneh.

12:50 Hezbollah's official in south Lebanon Sheikh Nabil Qaouq: The resistance will defeat the financial invasion in the 2009 elections. The polls, particularly in the south, will be a referendum on the resistance.

12:15 Speaker Nabih Berri in a statement: We ask the Organization of Islamic Conference, the Arab League and the U.N. to condemn the Israeli crime and stop the destruction of homes south of al-Aqsa mosque.

11:40 Interior Ministry Ziad Baroud visited the Baabda police station where he inspected work underway to receive demands for citizen IDs ahead of elections.

10:45 Minister Ibrahim Najjar told Future TV: Security forces should pursue those who attacked the policeman in Beirut's southern suburbs. The party that controls the area should stop arming.

9:00 Finance Minister Mohammed Shatah told VOL: It has become clear that the issue of the Council of the South is not financial. It has become a political issue and even the word "political" can no longer describe it.

8:35 VOL: Three people stole LL5 million from a gas station in Nahr el-Mot area opposite City Mall.

8:34 VOL: Unknown assailants torched the vehicle of Issam al-Abdullah, an official of the Lebanese Option Gathering (which is headed by Ahmed al-Asaad), in the southern town of Khiam. The car is a Nissan 2009 . Ahmad al Assaad Shiite moderate is an outspoken opponent of Hezbollah

wed as an alternative to

8:15 : Heavy traffic reported at Beirut entrances as a result of bad weather conditions and heavy rain.

7:44 MP Michel Pharaoun told VOL: A new form of obstruction exercised after Doha Agreement. "The problem is that there is a faction in the country that considers itself above the law and [considers] its interests above the country's interests," he said.

7:00 Minister Baroud told al Hayat : preparations are ongoing and the elections will be on schedule. No one is able to assume responsibility for violating the Doha accord

6:22 An Nahar : Hezbollah elements behind the attack against the officer Tarek al-Zein in Bourj al-Barajneh in al Dahiya south of Beirut

5: 44 VOL: VP of the phalange party Salim el Sayegh said the Christians have exposed Aoun's deception

5:35 Former Finance Minister Azour said : the fact the budget has not been approved yet proves that this is a disruptive government

5:29 MP Adwan : the prestige of the state is at stake, and institutions should assume responsibility

2:43 El Seyassah: One thousand security elements of the "March 8" will be watching "14 March" the election centers

2:32 El Seyassah: A new phase of destabilization of the situation in Lebanon by Syria before parliamentary elections

2:21 British diplomat of told El Seyassah: Aoun gave Bashar al Assad a detailed list of the names of officers who can be relied upon.

2:00 Elaf : Saudi Arabia will be sending soon a new ambassador to Syria after 3 year absence . Riyadh has already nominated the current ambassador in South Korea, Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Alaivan to be the new Syrian ambassador in Damascus

1:50 The White House has announced that British Prime Minister Gordon Brown will be visiting president Obama in Washington DC on March 3

1:38 Netanyahu declared his readiness to cooperate with Omama to achieve peace in the ME

Live Coverage 2-22-2009 6:50pm Information Minister Tarek Mitri left on a trip to Rome to attend a conference on inter-faith dialogue. He said the Christians' cause in this region concerns both the Christian and Muslim sects.

6:40pm Geagea following talks with the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon: The state must not condemn the launching of rockets; instead it has the duty to discover who is responsible for firing them.

2:15pm Army Commander Gen. Jean Qahwaji, heading a delegation of senior military officers, left for the U.S.

1:22pm VDL: 4 peacekeepers from the Indonesian battalion were wounded in south Lebanon when their military vehicle toppled on the main Edaysseh-Kfar-Kila road, hitting an electric pole.

1:20pm VDL: PSP leader Walid Jumblat toured a number of towns and villages in Upper Metn, stressing on the need to maintain calm. May 7 events are now behind us.

12:53pm Saniora: All domestic issues can be solved through dialogue. Arms and intimidation cannot solve anything. We have never succumbed to intimidation or extortion and we will not succumb now. We will not back down from our goals.

12:46pm Saniora: We have no reservations to brotherly ties with Syria and we hope we would be able to discuss issues like border demarcation, arms smuggling and missing Lebanese as the need arises.

12:42pm Saniora: There's got to be a new Arab political speech to unite our ranks and set priorities and rid

sectarian bias and the logic of intimidation.

12:36pm Saniora: We were able to survive wars &hellip; launch of the international tribunal is approaching. By this, we will have achieved a first step toward bringing back freedom of speech to the Lebanese.

12:30pm PM Fouad Saniora from Sidon: Political conflict has entered a new phase. We will not tire out despite obstacles.

10:15am Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir during Sunday sermon: Security forces must find (kidnapped MEA employee) Joseph Sader at any cost so as not to be accused of handling the case carelessly.

10:00am MP Antoine Zahra to Future News TV: Rockets fired into Israel are regional messages. Israel is convinced Hezbollah is not behind these attacks. The question is does Syria want to engage Hezbollah in a war? And what is Iran's stand on this?

9:30am Justice Minister Ibrahim Najjar to VDL: Hezbollah has no interest in rocket firing. The Katyusha attack was primitive, a sign that those who fired them belong to a party which doesn't possess sophisticated weapons or that a new party is seeking to

9:30am Justice Minister Ibrahim Najjar to VDL: Hezbollah has no interest in launching rockets. The Katyusha attack was primitive, a sign that those who fired them belong to a party which doesn't possess sophisticated weapons or that a new party is seeking

8:44am Radio Free Lebanon: Lebanese army troops and U.N. peacekeepers are patrolling several areas along the border with Israel as investigation into Saturday's rocket attack continued.

Sunday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

21:00 A bomb in a landmark Cairo bazaar exploded and killed four including two foreign tourists and wounded another 17 people, most of them tourists, on Sunday

20:10 Four armed men assaulted Tarek al-Zein an internal security forces, confiscated his weapons and showered his vehicle with bullets near the Rassoul al-Azam Mosque, in Bourj al-Barajneh in al Dahiya , a Hezbollah stronghold south of Beirut An investigation is underway

20:05 Speaker Berri stressed that Lebanon could not be governed &ldquo;by one faction , two , three or five but by all the Lebanese,&rdquo; adding that this was the highest degree of democracy. &ldquo;If we win the elections, we will not govern alone. I assure you that there will be a national unity cabinet in Lebanon after the 2009 election"

18:50 Information Minister Tarek Mitri left on a trip to Rome to attend a conference on inter-faith dialogue. He said the Christians' cause in this region concerns both the Christian and Muslim sects.

18:40 Geagea following talks with the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon: The state must not condemn the launching of rockets; instead it has the duty to discover who is responsible for firing them.

15:35 Palestinian president Abbas:" We refuse to negotiate with any Israeli government that continues to build settlements." The settlements are communities inhabited by Israelis in confiscated territories

14: 30 A spokesman of Baghdad Operations Command, Major-General Qassim Atta revealed the involvement of Iraqi MP Mohammad Dayni in the bombing of the parliament building in April 2007, which killed eight people, including an MP and the wounding of about twenty others

14:15 Army Commander Gen. Jean Kahwaji, accompanied by a delegation of senior military officers, left for the U.S.at the invitation of the US army command

14:00 Minister Elias Al-Murr headed to the United Arab Emirates today at the invitation of the Vice-President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, to participated in the exhibition and the opening of the Ninth International Conference of Defense to be held in Abu Dhabi

13:22 VDL: 4 peacekeepers from the Indonesian battalion were wounded in south Lebanon when their military vehicle toppled on the main Edaysseh-Kfar-Kila road, hitting an electric pole.

13:20 VDL: PSP leader MP Walid Jumblatt toured a number of towns and villages in Metn, stressing on the need to maintain calm. "May 7 events are now behind us." He told them

12:53 PM Siniora from Sidon: All domestic issues can be solved through dialogue. Arms and intimidation cannot solve anything. We have never succumbed to intimidation , extortion , threats and blackmail and we will not succumb now. We will not back down from our goals. We have no reservations to brotherly ties with Syria and we hope we would be able to discuss issues like border demarcation, arms smuggling and missing Lebanese as the need arises. We were able to survive wars &hellip; launch of the international tribunal is approaching. By this, we will have achieved a first step toward bringing back freedom of speech to the Lebanese.

10:45 MP Nabil Nicola to Manar TV: We did not sever ties with MP Michel Murr and we are open to any suggestions.

10:15 Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir during Sunday sermon: Security forces must find (kidnapped MEA employee) Joseph Sader at any cost so as not to be accused of handling the case carelessly.

10:10 Lebanese Forces MP Antoine Zahra told Future TV :I think Israel is convinced that Hezbollah didn't fire the rockets, and we know that most of the Palestinian militant groups in Lebanon are loyal to Syria. Does Syria want to involve Hezbollah in a war?

9:30 Justice Minister Ibrahim Najjar told VOL: Hezbollah has no interest in rocket firing. The Katyusha attack was primitive, a sign that those who fired them belong to a party which doesn't possess sophisticated weapons or that a new party is seeking to

8:44 Radio Free Lebanon: Lebanese army troops and U.N. peacekeepers are patrolling several areas along the border with Israel as investigation into Saturday's rocket attack continued.

5:41 Al Nahar sources: The firing of the 2 rockets Saturday morning from south Lebanon to Israel was an Iranian reaction to Netanyahu 's statements about Iran

4:50 After Issam Abu Jamra declared his candidacy in the district of Marjayoun, Speaker Nabih Berri, sent a sharp-

worded letter to MP Michel Aoun on what he viewed as a provocation and the imposition of a fait accompli in the south and said to him: I am neither Elie Skaff nor Talal Arslan to impose on me your candidates  
 2:29 A flood of people are coming to Lebanon during the election time and most of the flights to Lebanon between Mid May and early June are fully booked  
 1:46 Witnesses have confirmed that MEA employee Joseph Sader was taken to Hezbollah stronghold in Dahiya south of Beirut. Hezbollah didn't deny the report

Live Coverage 2-21-2009 4:00pm Druze leader Walid Jumblat called for calm political rhetoric to protect the nation.  
 3:00pm: Central Security Council: We shall continue strengthening the security and military deployment in all Lebanese regions particularly in Beirut and Mount Lebanon. Security forces are to deal with strictness with any violations.  
 2:45pm: President Michel Suleiman: Firing rockets from south Lebanon is in defiance of the will of the Lebanese and Israel's response is a violation of UNSCR 1701.  
 2:30pm: Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri: We are in dire need as Arabs to return to the spirit of cooperation, work and sacrifice. Not to sacrifice each other.  
 1:15pm: Central Security Council convenes at ministry of Interior with Minister Baroud presiding, to discuss security situation in the country and the recent security incidents that took place.  
 12:50pm: One individual shot at the Beirut & Stock Exchange last night, the shooter surrendered himself to the security forces.  
 12:35pm: Body of missing Israeli found on the Israeli beach close to Naqoura  
 12:40pm: Finance Minister Mohammed Shatah responds to Speaker Berri: It is unjust for the southern Lebanese to have someone trade with their interests for political, and electoral reasons.  
 11:30am: PM Saniora: The firing of rockets from south Lebanon and the Israeli response is a violation of UNSCR 1701. Such acts are rejected and denounced at a time when Israeli aggression towards Lebanon is repeated.  
 11:20am: Lebanese Military Command: An unknown and suspected source fired two rockets from the south (towards Israel) the investigation is ongoing.  
 11:00am: PFLP politburo member Ramez Mustapha to al-Jadeed TV: The Front has nothing to do with the rocket launching towards Israel.  
 10:50am: Fatah Secretary-general in Lebanon Sultan Abul Ainien said no Palestinian PLO faction is connected to the rocket launching to Israel early this morning.  
 10:30am: NBN TV: Security Forces find rocket platforms used in launching rockets at Israel at a field in al-Hiniyeh.  
 9:35am: Israeli Military Spokesman to AFP: The Israeli army considers this a serious incident and believes it is the responsibility of the Lebanese government and the army to prevent this rocket fire.  
 9:10am: al-Arabiya: Hizbullah denied its knowledge of the Ketyousha rockets fired from the south toward Israel.  
 9:02am: National News Agency: 6 Israeli shells landed between al-Huniyeh and al-Mansouri.  
 9:00am: AFP: Three Israeli rockets hit south Lebanon: Lebanese army.  
 8:35am: al-Arabiya: The rockets launched from south Lebanon toward Israel were Ketyoushas.  
 8:32am: AFP: One injured by rocket fired into Israel from Lebanon: radio.  
 8:30am: al-Jazeera: Israel confirms one rocket strike at the western part of the Galilee in north Israel.  
 8:20am: UNIFIL did not monitor any rocket launching from south Lebanon, Israel responds with 3 shells  
 8:15am: Press reports stated that one of the rockets blew up at a non-residential area inside Lebanese territory.  
 7:50am: al-Mustaqbal News: Two rockets launched from al-Qulaila and al-Mansouri, in the south close to Naqoura towards Israel

Saturday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

23:10 Larijani: It is "impossible" to deprive Iran of nuclear technology  
 23:00 Speaker Berri threatens the government : There will be no elections if the Council of the South does not get the 60 billion LL  
 22:21 A Palestinian was killed in a mysterious explosion in the Gaza Strip  
 22:04 Clinton stresses from Beijing on the "utmost importance" of China US cooperation  
 21:53 3468 Motorcycles were confiscated by Lebanese police for various violations and the campaign continues  
 21:33 Prime Minister Fouad Siniora contacted his Egyptian counterpart Ahmed Nazif, and expressed his thanks to the signing of the Agreement on the power link between Egypt and Lebanon, which was signed today in Cairo.  
 21:21 The Formal opening of the Abu Ghraib prison and hopes of changing its gloomy image  
 21:02 Soaid denounced the attack against the Prime Minister on behalf of a delegation of 14 March, from the Serail palace : Behind Siniora are political , public and parliamentary forces  
 20:44 Germany's former chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on Saturday criticized Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for doubting the Holocaust and said that the Holocaust was a "historical fact" and that there was no sense in denying such an "unparalleled crime."  
 20:00 The March 14 general secretariat delegation stressed its support to PM Siniora and denounced verbal attacks on the prime minister.  
 19:35 Speaker Berri denounced the rocket attack on Israel and said the perpetrators violated Resolution 1701 as Israel

does.

19:00 Hezbollah's election machine will adopt more sophisticated methods than those used in previous elections . Hezbollah expects that the number of its supporters would be a record high in some districts , especially in some districts of Mount Lebanon, after the party managed to transfer the records of many voters from South Lebanon according to inside Hezbollah sources

18:56 Minister of Tourism Eli Marouni said he is the parliamentary candidate of the Phalange party in Zahle for the Maronite seat . He said the elections in Zahle will be hot and that March 14th is ahead based on recent polls

18:50 PM Siniora met with a delegation from the March 14 general secretariat at the Grand Serail.

18:50 MP Mustafa Hashem, denounced the launch of rockets from southern Lebanon toward the occupied Palestinian territories and called this action a clear attempt to drag Lebanon to new battles with the Israeli enemy . he called for the need to extend state sovereignty over all the Lebanese territory, and to arrest all the violators of security

18:40 President Michel Suleiman restated his position of his refusal that south Lebanon to be a platform for launching rockets, saying that this is a challenge to the will of the Lebanese. He asked army chief General Jean Kahwaji, and Interior Minister Ziad Baroud to find out and arrest whoever did it and to prevent the recurrence of such acts

18:36 Bahrain went on high alert today and issued directive to those responsible for the security of maritime boundaries to prevent the entry of any Iranian vessel to the Bahraini port, according to Bahraini sources

17:40 A truck overturned in Ramlet el Baida and closed the road for 3 hours . The road was reopened at 3:00PM

17:09 MP Samir Franjeh: The centrist group has revealed the fragility of the Free Patriotic Movement ( which is headed by MP Michel Aoun) and showed how it is collapsing ,

16:27 Secretary-General of the National Liberal Party, Elias Abu Assi said the firing of rockets is linked to the elections in Israel and Lebanon. He added that it is not the first time that Hezbollah denies firing rockets and yet it claims to be the defender of the southern borders

16:17 PM Siniora's office: The statements made by Speaker Berri against the prime minister and minister Shatah are distasteful and never seen the like before, which is rejected and denounced and will only lead to deterioration in the political discourse which is totally unacceptable,

16:00 MP Walid Jumblat called for calm political rhetoric to protect the nation.

15:00 : Central Security Council: We shall continue strengthening the security and military deployment in all Lebanese regions particularly in Beirut and Mount Lebanon. Security forces are to deal with strictness with any violations.

14:45 : President Michel Suleiman: Firing the rockets from south Lebanon is a challenge against the Lebanese will, Israel's response is a violation of UNSCR 1701.

14:30 : Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri: We are in dire need as Arabs to return to the spirit of cooperation, work and sacrifice. Not to sacrifice each other.

13:52 Fatah says Palestinian factions to hold reconciliation talks in Cairo on Wednesday

13:26 FM Salloukh: Army-UNIFIL cooperation will prevent Israel from justifying violations

13:15 : Central Security Council convenes at ministry of Interior with Minister Baroud presiding, to discuss security situation in the country and the recent security incidents that took place.

12:50 : One individual shot at the Beirut -Stock Exchange last night, the shooter surrendered himself to the security forces.

12:35 :Body of missing Israeli found on the Israeli beach close to Naqoura

11:42 Army and UNIFIL intensify measures in the South after rocket-launching

12:40 : Finance Minister Mohammed Shatah responds to Speaker Berri: It is unjust for the southern Lebanese to have someone trade with their interests for political, and electoral reasons.

11:30 : PM Siniora: The firing of rockets from south Lebanon and the Israeli response is a violation of UNSCR 1701.

Such acts are rejected and denounced at a time when Israeli aggression towards Lebanon is repeated.

11:22 Tourism Minister Elie Marouni told LBC television that Democratic Gathering ministers would not have supported opposition in budget vote

11:21 Ramez Mustafa of PFLP-GC denies involvement in the rocket-launching and added "no Palestinian party was responsible for this act"

11:20 : Lebanese Military Command: An unknown and suspected source fired two rockets from the south (towards Israel) the investigation is ongoing.

11:15 : Israel Radio quoting Israeli cabinet members: Israel considers the Lebanese government responsible over what goes on its borders with Israel.

10:50 : Fatah Secretary-general in Lebanon Sultan Abul Ainien said no Palestinian PLO faction is connected to the rocket launching to Israel early this morning.

10:50 FPM MP Abbas Hashem told New TV that he doubts Kataeb-Murr alliance will last

10:30 : NBN TV: Security Forces find rocket platforms used in launching rockets at Israel at a field in al-Hiniyeh.

10:21 Mitri calls for domestic and international observers to monitor the elections

9:56 MP Elie Aoun told the Free Lebanon radio: All parties agreed to hold elections on time and in one day

9:35 : Israeli Military Spokesman to AFP: The Israeli army considers this a serious incident and believes it is the responsibility of the Lebanese government and the army to prevent this rocket fire.

9:10 : al-Arabiya: Hezbollah denied its knowledge of the Ketyousha rockets fired from the south toward Israel.

9:02 : National News Agency: 6 Israeli shells landed between al-Huniyeh and al-Mansouri.

9:00 : AFP: Three Israeli rockets hit south Lebanon: Lebanese army.

8:53 Shamseddine: Rockets will not be considered an act of resistance if they do not achieve expected goal

8:35 :al-Arabiya: The rockets launched from south Lebanon toward Israel were Katyushas.

8:32 :AFP: One injured by rocket fired into Israel from Lebanon: radio.

8:30 : al-Jazeera: Israel confirms one rocket strike at the western part of the Galilee in north Israel.

8:20 : UNIFIL did not monitor any rocket launching from south Lebanon, Israel responds with 3 shells

8:15 : Press reports stated that one of the rockets blew up at a non-residential area inside Lebanese territory.

7:50 :al-Mustaqbal News: Two rockets launched from al-Qulaila and al-Mansouri, in the south close to Naqoura towards Israel

Live Coverage 2-20-2009 5:40pm Egypt's Ambassador to Lebanon Ahmed al-Bedewi handed Saniora an invitation to a conference for the reconstruction of Gaza to be held March 2 in Sharm el-Sheikh.

5:30pm Citizen Pierre Saliba was found shot in the head, with a gun next to his body, in a vehicle parked on a highway in Sin el-Fil.

3:05pm: LBC: Nabih Berri does not object to the formation of a Cabinet committee to follow up on the issue of the Council of the South, but remains watchful regarding developments in this regard.

3:00pm: LBC: press reports claim that cabinet at its last session authorized a cabinet committee to follow up on the issue of the Council of the South.

2:40pm: Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea: We call on all friends and supporters to maintain full calm following the grenade attack on Thursday night, because this could be an attempt to drag the LF into irresponsible responses.

1:30pm: Central Teachers Council staged a sit-in at Riyad Solh Square in Beirut. The protesters threatened to go on strike on March 2nd and demonstrate on the 17th unless their demands were met.

12:15pm Mustaqbal movement leader Saad Hariri traveled to Riyadh on a private visit.

11:58am The grenades were found in the garden of Milad Massoud, a former Phalange official. His home is almost 60 meters away from the Phalange bureau in Dbayeh.

11:17am: An Amal Movement delegation headed by MP Ali Hassan Khalil visited the village of Shibaniyeh and paid its condolences over the killing of Lutfi Zeineddine on Feb. 14.

11:15am: MP Antoine Zahra to Al Jadeed TV: The political confrontation between March 8 and 14 Forces will continue beyond the elections. The wiretapping officer at the ministry of Telecommunications has been gathering data for 4 years.

11:10am: Future News TV: Two grenades were found near a Phalange Party Bureau in Dbayeh.

10:30am: March 14 General Secretariat member Michel Moawad to LBC: I asked the Lebanese in Australia and the US to defend Lebanon, to come and vote at the spring elections.

9:15am VDL: Unknown assailants threw a hand grenade on a Lebanese Forces office in Kfour-Keserwan last night, causing material damage only.

8:05am Minister Wael Abou Faour to VDL: A delegation from Amal movement and the Progressive Socialist Party will extend condolences to Zeineddine's family in Shbaniyeh after the culprits were arrested.

7:45am Minister Ibrahim Shamseddine to VDL: Postponing the adoption of the state budget is a positive opportunity to come up with a solution that suits all sides.

Friday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

23:17UNIFIL was asked by Israel to help in finding the body of an Israeli who drowned in the sea

22:22

22:30 Fares Khassan said that Aoun taught him: 1- the 2000 withdrawal by Israel was a lie 2-the US is doing what is best for Lebanon 3- Assad killed Hariri 4- Iran wants to change Lebanon into a Mediterranean basis to threaten Europe

22:08 The Israel boat disappeared yesterday in the Lebanese territorial water . There are conflicting reports over the disappearance of the Israeli soldier

21:57 UN officials : Iran has enough Uranium to make a nuclear bomb according to New York Times

21:42 UNIFIL spokesperson Yasmina Bouziane told VOL: So far we still have no reports about the disappearance of an Israeli soldier near the border with Lebanon

21:32 Israel notified UNIFIL over the disappearance of an Israeli boat in the Lebanese water.

21:24 Now Lebanon: Hezbollah source denies that party is involved in the disappearance of the missing Israeli soldier

21:16 Israel notified UNIFIL about the disappearance of an Israeli soldier.

21:14 Conflicting information on the fate of an Israeli soldier that disappeared near the Lebanese-Israeli border

20:54 former US ambassador to Israel: Israel prefers if Hezbollah wins the Lebanese elections

20:53 Al Arabiya : Israel fired illumination flares over Naqoura in southern Lebanon.

20:40 Interior Minister Baroud called for an emergency "Central Security Council" meeting tomorrow

20:37 Al Arabiya : An Israeli soldier who was exercising near the border with Lebanon has disappeared

20:26 Gemayel: If Hezbollah wins the elections it will take over the country

20:23 Lebanon files: Pierre Saliba owns a car showroom in Jisr el Wati area in Sin el Fil neighborhood . Theft was ruled out as the cause of his death because he was found with personal documents and money

18:53 Geagea at Kfour : It is shameful to say that voters are being paid to vote ...voters are not for sale. I urge all the emigrants to come and exercise their right. I am concerned about major security breaches that could either lead to the

delay or cancellation of the elections. We should not respond to the issue of the bombs and will let the security forces take care of it

18:34 Abu Jamra told al Markaziya : "I will be a parliament candidate in the south"

18:20 Iran has offered to stop attacking the British troops in return for giving up British opposition to the Iranian nuclear program

18:10 An Nahar : A source quoted US Envoy Mitchell saying : "the US will not sacrifice Lebanon and its people no matter what." He confirmed his government's support for Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, democracy, state institutions and army.

18:00 Hezbollah official Mahmoud Qomati: the Resistance became the guarantor of Lebanon's strength, immunity and protection from the external enemy. He confirmed that Hezbollah would always be free and its arms would remain in its possession. He added that participation of Hezbollah in the dialogue talks is to ensure support for Hezbollah as the resistance force.

17:40 Egypt's Ambassador to Lebanon Ahmed al-Bedewi handed PM Siniora an invitation to a conference for the reconstruction of Gaza to be held March 2 in Sharm el-Sheikh.

17:40 US Sec. of Defense Gates: 20 countries have offered to strengthen their military forces in Afghanistan

17:26 French FM Kouchner delayed his trip to Riyadh at the request Saudi Arabia

17:12 Netanyahu after he was appointed Israeli Prime minister designate : Our biggest challenge is Iran

17: 00 Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoom denied sending a message to the United States with senator John Kerry who visited Hamas but did not meet any Hamas official

16:28 The body of Pierre Saliba was found inside a black four wheel Range Rover car with tag no. B 447308 in the Jisr el Wati ( low bridge ) in Sin el Fil district . He was shot in the head . A gun was found next to his body

16:15 Hajj Hassan : How long will we be able to remain silent about the diplomatic excesses of American officials in Lebanon

15:30 Communist chief Haddah from Rabiah : Agree with General Aoun to determine the best conditions for the formation of electoral lists of people that will be capable of representing the opposition

15:05 : LBC: Speaker Berri does not object to the formation of a Cabinet committee to follow up on the issue of the Council of the South, but remains watchful regarding developments in this regard.

15:00 : LBC: press reports claimed that Cabinet at its last session authorized a Cabinet committee to follow up on the issue of the Council of the South.

14:35 President Suleiman is to visit Muscat, Oman later this month to hold talks with Sultan Qaboos that will deal with the latest developments in Lebanon and the region

14:15 Targeting Lebanese Forces centers with bombs is an attempt to drag us to react , which will lead to further tensions in the security situation and thus the cancellation of the elections.

14:00 MP Chehayeb noted Berri's role in calming the situation and called for justice to take its course

13:55 MP Hassan Khalil during his visit to Zeineddine family to offer condolences on behalf of "Amal " : "We will lift the cover from each person that breaches the security, we stand behind the logic of calm." He said

13:34 Israeli President Shimon Peres charges right-wing Likud party leader Benjamin Netanyahu with forming new cabinet

13:30 : Central Teachers Council staged a sit-in at Riyadh Solh Square in Beirut. The protesters threatened to go on strike on March 2nd and demonstrate on the 17th unless their demands were met.

12:15 MP Saad Hariri left for Riyadh on a private visit.

12:05 MP Salim Aoun told OTV: Everyone realizes that the 2009 budget could not be approved before a solution was found regarding the Council for South allocations.

11:58 The grenades were found in the garden of Milad Massoud, a former Phalange official. His home is almost 60 meters away from the Phalange office in Dbayeh.

11:50 Deputy Prime Minister Issam Abu Jamra told NBN: The alliance between the Kataeb party and Murr "is weak and unbalanced," just like most of the March 14 alliances. Earlier Murr called Abu Jamra "insignificant"

11:17 : An Amal Movement delegation headed by MP Ali Hassan Khalil visited the village of Chbaniyah and paid its condolences over the killing of Lutfi Zeineddine on Feb. 14.

11:15 : MP Antoine Zahra told Al Jadeed TV: The political confrontation between March 8 and 14 Forces will continue beyond the elections. The wiretapping officer at the ministry of Telecommunications has been gathering data for 4 years.

11:12 MP Nabil Nicolas told New TV: the wiretapping debate was not connected to the cabinet or to the upcoming parliamentary elections

11:10 : Future News TV: Two grenades were found near a Phalange Party office in Dbayeh.

10:54 Gerges Said Abu Karam, 30, a Lebanese man died in an American commuter plane crash on February 12 near Buffalo, New York. All 50 persons on board and one person on the ground died.

10:30 : March 14 General Secretariat member Michel Moawad to LBC: I asked the Lebanese in Australia and the US to defend Lebanon, to come and vote at the spring elections. "I call for Arab and international monitoring of the elections to ensure holding them in one day," he added

9:15 VOL: Unknown assailants threw a hand grenade on a Lebanese Forces office in Kfour-Keserwan last night, causing material damage only.

8:05 Minister Wael Abou Faour told VOL: A delegation from Amal movement and the Progressive Socialist Party will extend condolences to Zeineddine's family in Chbaniyah after the culprits were arrested. He also said the ministers to follow up on budget with president Suleiman

7:45am Minister Ibrahim Shamseddine told VOL: Postponing the adoption of the state budget is a positive opportunity to

come up with a solution that suits all sides.

Live Coverage 2-19-2009 6:45pm Cabinet convened its session in the presidential palace to discuss a draft law on the 2009 state budget. The session was preceded by a closed meeting between the president and the Council of Ministers.  
 5:15pm Official source to VDL: There will be no new developments in the budget file before tonight's Cabinet session. The finance minister is currently making some contacts ahead of the meeting.  
 3:50pm MP Walid Jumblat, during a visit to Yarzeh, reaffirmed his faith in the army while Army Commander Gen. Jean Qahwaji stressed that everyone's security will be safeguarded

2:35pm Lebanese Democratic Party leader Talal Arslan visited FPM leader Michel Aoun at his residence in Rabiye and the two men discussed preparations for the upcoming elections and ways to form electoral lists.

1:58pm Future News: Speaker Nabih Berri adjourned a parliamentary session for lack of quorum.

12:43pm Hariri said efforts undertaken by ex-Premier Hariri in the field of culture had caused a revolution in Lebanon and vowed to exert every effort to continue his father's march.

12:40pm Mustaqbal Movement MP Saad Hariri during the inauguration of Rafik Hariri College of Nursing at AUB: My father's goal was to revive economy and strengthen democracy.

11:50am MP Robert Ghanem at parliament: We wonder why the army and security forces are continuously attacked and held responsible for many issues.

11:48am MP Michel Moussa during a parliamentary session: We appreciate the efforts to uncover the fate of Engineer Joseph Sader and we urge for his return to his family and hometown.

11:45am Middle East Airlines pilots held a one-hour strike to protest captain Ghassan Miqdad's murder in Ouzai on Wednesday.

11:20am Shots were fired in the air during the funeral procession for slain MEA pilot Ghassan Miqdad in Ouzai.

11:00am VDL: A bomb went off around midnight under the vehicle of Ali Shartouni in the town of Tair Dibba in south Lebanon, causing material damage only.

10:40am March 14 official Fares Soaid to LBC: Hariri's 4th assassination anniversary showed that March 8 forces won't win the elections.

10:30am: Hizbullah statement: We denounce the Zionist undermining of holy religious symbols, we call on all concerned international, legal, civil and religious authorities to initiate a united act denouncing this crime.

9:45am: Tourism Minister Elie Marouni to Future News: There is an exit plan for the budget issue that would be proposed at the cabinet meeting today.

8:25am MP Boutros Harb to VDL: Adopting the law that would try top leaders will constitute a threat to governance in Lebanon.

8:15am Minister Jean Oghassabian to VDL: The cabinet will discuss ways to provide the amount of 73 billion LL to implement projects.

7:30am A container-truck deviated from its lane on the Dora highway, causing a huge traffic jam.

Thursday YaLibnan/NNA.GOV.LB

19:20 Cabinet meeting begins in Baabda and being chaired by the president

18:11 The U.N. nuclear agency says it has found new traces of uranium in samples taken from a Syrian site being investigated for possible hidden nuclear activities.

18:00 MPs Nayla Moawad and Jawad Boulos hold FPM's energy minister Alain Taborian responsible for any damages and loss in life as a result of the electricity blackout in Zgarta area which has been going on for 4 days without any explanations.

17:20 Interior Minister Ziad Baroud returned to Jordanian MP Bassam Mohammad Khalifeh his stolen Range Rover after the Internal Security Forces found it.

Khalifeh was grateful, thanked Baroud and ISF

17:15 Official source told VOL: There will be no new developments in the budget file before tonight's Cabinet session. The finance minister is currently making some contacts ahead of the meeting.

17:14 Detained General Ali el Hajj has for the 4th time refused to meet another suspect in the Hariri murder Ahmad Merhi in the presence of Judge Saqr Saqr for questioning about the crime

16:55 Musbah el Ahdab: I strongly welcome the alliance agreement between hariri and Miqati. I am a solid member of March 14

16:27 Minister Murr: President Mubarak pleasantly suprised me with his offer of unlimited support for the Lebanese army

15:50 MP Walid Jumblatt, after meeting Army Commander Gen. Jean kahwaji during a visit to the Lebanese Army command center in Yarzeh, reaffirmed his faith in the army while Kahwaji stressed that everyone's security will be safeguarded

15:11 FM Salloukh: nothing new to report on the appointment of a Syrian ambassador to Lebanon. Statements made by American officials during the US congressional delegation visit on Wednesday will obstruct the diplomatic exchange between Lebanon and Syria.

15:00 Finance Minister Shatah: No final agreement on the Council for South budget has been reached and is not expected to be resolved in the cabinet meeting &ldquo;unless a miracle happens before the meeting .

14:39 Greek Catholic Bishop Gregoire Haddad has removed his confession from his Lebanese civil status record according to An Nahar newspaper

14:35 Lebanese Democratic Party leader Talal Arslan visited FPM leader Michel Aoun at his residence in Rabiye and the two men discussed preparations for the upcoming elections and ways to form electoral lists.

14:11 MP Chamel Mozaya calls for reducing gasoline prices, saying people can't afford the taxes. Accused Prime Minister Fouad Siniora of increasing taxes without the parliament&rsquo;s approval .

13:58 Future TV: Speaker Nabih Berri adjourned a parliamentary session for lack of quorum.

12:40 Mustaqbal Movement MP Saad Hariri during the inauguration of Rafik Hariri College of Nursing at AUB: My father&rsquo;s goal was to revive economy and strengthen democracy. He vowed to exert every effort to continue his father's march.

11:50 MP Robert Ghanem at parliament: We wonder why the army and security forces are continuously attacked and held responsible for many issues.

11:48 MP Michel Moussa during a parliamentary session: We appreciate the efforts to uncover the fate of Engineer Joseph Sader and we urge for his return to his family and hometown.

11:45 Middle East Airlines pilots held a one-hour strike to protest captain Ghassan Miqdad&rsquo;s murder in Ouzai on Wednesday.

11:20 Shots were fired in the air during the funeral procession for slain MEA pilot Ghassan Miqdad in Ouzai.

11:00 VOL: A bomb went off around midnight under the vehicle of Ali Shartouni in the town of Tair Dibba in south Lebanon, causing material damage only.

10:48 PM Fouad Siniora arrived in parliament to attend a session that Speaker Nabih Berri has called for to discuss 13 draft laws.

10:44 Avigdor Lieberman backs Netanyahu for Israel PM. This makes it certain that a right winger will form the government

10:30 : Hezbollah statement: We denounce the Zionist undermining of holy religious symbols, we call on all concerned international, legal, civil and religious authorities to initiate a united act denouncing this crime.

10:29 Soueid: Any western openness toward Syria will negatively affect Hezbollah, not March 14

10:05 Rockets fired from Gaza after brief Israeli incursion

9:45 : Tourism Minister Elie Marouni to Future News: Security should always be discussed in cabinet meetings . There is an exit plan for the budget issue that would be proposed at the cabinet meeting today.

8:25 MP Boutros Harb told VOL: Adopting the law that would try top leaders will constitute a threat to governance in Lebanon, because they will still have immunity

8:15 Minister Jean Oghassabian told VOL: The cabinet will discuss the budget and security .

7:30 A container- Truck turns over on Dora highway causing heavy traffic in both directions

04:55 Future TV: Minister Ghazi Aridi denied the presence of any barter deal between Jumblatt and Minister Arslan in the Aley electoral or an any agreement with Speaker Nabih Berri in the southern electoral district . He also said that the dispute with Hezbollah is not over its hostility towards Israel but due to its relationship with the Syrian regime , Iranian and Syrian interference in Lebanese affairs and the use of its weapons against the Lebanese citizens.

04:34 Finance Minister Shatah : we have reached a solution for the issue of the South Lebanon Council

04:03 Guardian UK interview : Assad said he was unconcerned by the opening on 1 March of the UN tribunal investigating the Hariri assassination. He also said : "There is no substitute for the United States," and urged Obama to restore Damascus envoy.

03:21 Iran refusing to co-operate with nuclear inspectors, says UN 's Mohamed ElBaradei . On the hand he said Iran has slowed the expansion of its Natanz enrichment site<sup>21</sup>

03:20 Two men are vying for the post of director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency to replace Mohamed El Baradei: 1- Japan's Yukiya Amano 2- South Africa's Abdul Samad Minty .

03:16 Syrian Muslim Brotherhood: Peace with Israel is not an acceptable option. Their chief Ali Sadreddine Bayanouni said "Syria, which is the only Arab country with an occupied territory will not be able to liberate its land through peace means and the only option is resistance "

02:20 There is a rumor circulating in Beirut claiming that Hezbollah may renege on its agreement with Hariri with regards to the seat allocations of the 2nd electoral district of Beirut . The agreement was made in Doha during the Doha accord talks. The reason Hezbollah may be backing off is the concern of March 8 about the unpopularity of General Aoun and the expected drastic reduction in the size of his parliamentary bloc. Hezbollah according to the rumor thinks it can get 2 additional seats in Beirut if it reneges on the deal with Hariri

00:05 Iran made a ( pilotless ) drone capable of reaching Israel according to Iranian DM General Ahmad Wahidi . The name of the drone is " A Saiqa " or Azrakhsh