

**Diasporic Citizenships, Cosmopolitanisms,
and the Paradox of Mediated Objectivity:
An Interdisciplinary Study of the BBC World Service**

The Politics of Translation: Arabic

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Media Diary 19/03/2007 – 15/04/2007 BBCWS Arabic and other news providers

19/03/07:

BBC World Service Arabic News (henceforth BBCWS Arabic):

Website Headlines:

- **Bush – “The priority in Iraq at the moment is restoring security”**
 - o In the article the war is referred to as the ‘**American Invasion**’
 - o The article states that the on-going operations related to the surge are aimed at tackling **Sunni, Shia and Al Qaeda insurgency** groups
 - o Gates - it is too early to judge the developments of ‘the surge’
 - o Article claims an official as stating that Baghdad has witnessed less religiously motivated attacks since the initiation of the surge

- **Execution of Taher Yasin Ramadan to take place on Tuesday**
 - o Mentions that the family is attempting to call other lawyers
 - o Discusses the controversy surrounding the legality of this execution due to the failure to uphold the 30 day period
 - o The Iraqi government is not in the position to veto this decision as it is taken as a crime against humanity and thus does not fall in the jurisdiction of the government (international tribunal)

- **Norwegian FM to meet PM Haniyeh**
 - o Norwegian FM first diplomat from the EU to meet with PM Haniyeh following the formation of a Palestinian unity government
 - o Mentions internal problems – Hamas spokesman refers to Mohammad Dahlan as an provocative individual who would have to chose between being a MP or national security advisor (Fateh was going to appoint him)
 - o Article ends with the accusations made by Israeli PM Olmert towards the new unity government, claiming that it fails to fulfil the conditions of the Quartet

BBC News 24 (19/03/07):

Main stories:

- **Iraq Four Years On: Nation wide Iraqi poll has suggested growing disapproval**
- Budget 2007 -Gas guzzler cars - raise duty on worst polluting cars
- Missing BBC Journalist Alan Johnson in Gaza – increasing calls for release (father makes plea)
- Further inquests made into Sally Clark death
- Egg Scam: Million eggs involved in scam to pass off battery eggs as free range eggs.
- Phil Spector Trial

Special Coverage - Iraq: Four Years On:

- **4 years after the invasion:** Nation wide opinion poll (jointly commissioned by ABC and BBC) has suggested growing disapproval among Iraqis in reference to the situation in Iraq and the ability of the American and British forces to establish stability.

Statistical information provided - About 75% don't feel safe, 82% have little confidence in coalition. Some optimistic points – most Iraqi's think there is no Civil war (56%) and they want their country to stay united (94%).

Surge has brought the violence down but even conducting survey was a risk. Fewer bombs, yet still going on.

Live Report from Basra – mentions how it has changed for journalists (need to wear protection now). Discusses how the general Iraqi population do not have the resources to be constantly protected (short documentary film, interviewing Iraqis)

Clip of Bush speech outlining progress in Iraq and praising American troops.

Gives brief summary of other headlines:

- o Former Vice President (Mr. Ramadan) is to be executed for crimes against humanity
- o Eight die in Kirkuk explosions (14 die in violence throughout Iraq)
- o Mentions report and ¾ do not feel safe. Discusses how it affects national sport (short documentary film on football in Iraq – problems with violence and the sport – star player injured in suicide bombing flown to America and France for treatment)
- o Discusses details of surge

Live report from Ramadi:

- o Surge to counter '*Sunni insurgency*'
- o Discusses difficulty of achieving success with Surge in areas like Ramadi
- o Short documentary of interview with an American soldier in Iraq – Discusses birth of daughter, “this is what I enjoy doing”, “I am comfortable here.”, “I am not here for popularity” – everyone at home supports them (don't necessarily agree)

On BBC website headlines:

- *Bush calls for patience on Iraq*
- *21/7 plan 'was Iraq protest'*
- *Barclays in exclusive ABN talks*

CNN (19/03/07):

On CNN website headlines:

- *Pentagon: Gitmo detainee confesses in Cole bombing*
- *Giant jet arrives in US*
- *Mine blast kills 71 in Russia, reports say*
- *Bush touts progress on war's 4th anniversary*
- *Elite team rescues troops behind enemy lines*

Notes 19/03/07

- One difference which struck me between the headlines on BBC News 24 (and the English website) and the BBCWS Arabic is that BBCWS Arabic makes no mention of the poll (commissioned in part by the BBC) indicating increasing disapproval amongst Iraqi's towards the situation in their country.
- Reference to the war in BBCWS Arabic as the 'American invasion' è usually tends to be the 'American led invasion' or the '2003 invasion' (not sure if it is never referred to as the 'American invasion' on BBC Website international or BBC News 24 but haven't come across it yet)
- Interesting that on the in-depth coverage of the Iraq conflict on BBC News 24 the surge is referred to as targeting the Sunni insurgency while on BBCWS Arabic (website) the surge is described as targeting Sunni, Shia and Al Qaeda insurgency
- While BBC News 24 paid a lot of attention to the 4 year anniversary (special week long coverage) è the BBC websites (WS and BBC international) and CNN did not seem to greatly acknowledge this anniversary apart from mentioning the speech U.S. President Bush made on the occasion
- First impression of BBCWS Arabic is that they (maybe obviously) place more emphasis on stories directly affecting the Arabic world. The meeting between the Norwegian FM and Palestinian PM Haniyeh makes no appearance in the main stories of either CNN or BBC.

*** Could not open BBCWS Arabic radio on the 19/03/07 – the file wouldn't stream; not sure whether it was the BBC website or my system but it worked the remainder of the week.

**** Spelling mistake on BBCWS Arabic PM Hanyah instead of PM Haniyeh

20/03/07

BBCWS Arabic:

Radio Headlines:

- **World facing problem with Iraqi refugees**
- Execution of Iraqi deputy PM Ramadan
- Egyptian street demonstration break out in response to attempts by President Husni Mubarak to amend the constitution

In depth reports on radio:

- Grenadier Abdul Hussein chief of Basra police claims that up to 1/3 of his troops are loyal to militias
- Palestinian Minister of Finance meets U.S. consul in Jerusalem
 - o Clip (in English) of Palestinian Finance Minister Barghouti highlighting the importance of this meeting
- Margaret Beckett contacts President Abbas to ensure the swift release of Johnson
 - o Clip of the demonstrations held by Journalists in Gaza as a sign of solidarity with Johnson ☺ Palestinian people behind Johnson and against such attacks
- Seniors and Biri convene Parliament in Beirut
 - o PM Seniors and Speaker of the House Biri have attended a parliamentary session in Beirut to proceed with the investigation and court cases of the Hariri probe.

Website Headlines:

- ***The World is ignoring Iraqi refugees***
 - o Global community faced with major problems in dealing with the increasing numbers of refugees leaving Iraq
 - o Syria has informed the international community that it needs help in dealing with this issue
 - o Article outlines the economic and social needs of these refugees
 - o Unnamed U.N. official is stated as saying that the civil war in Iraq is to blame for this influx in refugees, that women carry a large part of the burden of being refugees
 - o Article mentions the relative calm of Kurdish areas in Iraq
- ***Palestinian Minister of Finance meets U.S. consul in Jerusalem***
 - o First meeting between an American official and a member of the Palestinian government since the formation of a unity government
 - o Signals the opening of some doors of communication between the US and the Palestinian unity government
 - o Mentions that Condoleezza Rice criticized the unity government failure to renounce violence against Israel and to officially recognize Israel

- *Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett holds talks with Abu Mazen about Johnson*
 - o London using all channels to get Johnson out
 - o BBC calls for fast release
 - o BBC in touch with the Palestinian and Israeli governments to get issue resolved as swiftly as possible
 - o Beckett describes Johnson as a good friend of the Palestinians
 - o Simon Wilson – BBC Middle East bureau chief – stated as saying that the BBC is doing its best to cover the news on the ground with eyewitness reports at the moment. Main goal is to cover news objectively

BBC News 24 (20/03/07):

Main stories:

- **Most Britons think invasion of Iraq was mistake**
 - o Only third of people thought taking military action was right (Poll conducted by the BBC) 60% mistake 55 % less safe – new questions on intelligence before war. (Show clip of Tony Blair assuring people of existence of weapons in Iraq. Lord Butler’s accusation to Tony Blair shown – in 2004 his criticism wasn’t as strong back then, could have brought down the government.
- Passport fraud – two terrorist obtained two British passports
 - o Two Al Qaeda terrorists. Passports also used for people smuggling and fraud. 1 in 700 passport issued are false
- Abuse trial – foster carer has been found guilty of violence to children
- Zimbabwe opposition increases as US envoy to country said country is at a turning point.
- Palestinian Finance Minister has meets U.S. consul in Jerusalem
 - o Ambassador Philip C. Wilcox è Sorry state of affairs in the Middle East. They have managed to pull together government and Israel and US are rejecting to negotiate. No point in placing requirements before the actual negotiations – hopeful meeting with Norwegian FM could indicate a thaw in the stand still

Special coverage of Iraq Conflict:

- Four years since Iraq Invasion:
 - o Documentary film of two fathers who has lost sons in Iraq conflict – opposing views: one blaming the government (PM should be brought to justice, no more planes to Brighton) and the other believing his son died for a reason (Saddam had the will and ability to use chemical weapons, Iraq should become a strong democracy)
- Grenadier Abdul Hussein chief of Basra police says that 1/3 of police force linked to illegal militias which offer these police officers protection. General found smuggling weapons was promoted and moved to Baghdad not sacked. (only hours after heard it on Arabic WS)
- Funeral of former Vice President took place in Tikrit – Most human rights groups and Russia have spoken out against execution

Other special coverage:

Debate on government issued laws on banning religious dress in public spaces:

- Carol Hammilton ➤ Con - not clear what the government has imposed, lack of consistency across schools which don't impose dress ban, vague and schools will find it difficult to impose, hard to say how to balance religious and woman rights... "Are we hitting the limits of tolerance" "Don't feel very comfortable with woman who are veiled" mentions Lord who made it clear that its not clear whether the child has a right/mind to decide
- Cathrine Hussein ➤ Pro – best not to impose ban, woman being used as political tools, doesn't believe veil affects educational ability, blown out of all proportion – happens to be decided on fourth anniversary of Iraq war, plural society is what is nice about the UK

On BBC website headlines:

- *10,000 passports go to fraudsters*
- *Iraqi police disloyal, says chief*
- *Carer guilty of abusing children*

CNN (20/03/07):

Main stories:

Zimbabwe turmoil: Zimbabwe announces that it will expel diplomats that support opposition leaders. U.S. and neighbours of Zimbabwe have expressed concern over situation. Police beat up demonstrators – opposition of Australia (interview with Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer) – refers to international law which allows to foreign diplomats to contact opposition figures.

Siberian mine blast: Death toll in Monday's mine blast in Siberia is 107

Fire in southern Russia: 62 people died when flames swept a seniority home

Eye on India Report

On CNN website headlines:

- *Zimbabwe blast 'enemy agencies'*
- *Bush, Senate clash over firings*
- *Search for missing Russian miners*
- *DNA test ordered for Smith baby*
- *In the Field: Gaza kidnapping chills CNN correspondents*
- *12 in running for French presidency*
- *Missing teen found in utility room*
- *Religion still central to India's youth*
- *Final Potter book will go 'green'*

Notes 20/03/07:

- The radio headlines for the BBCWS Arabic were interesting in the sense that again the order of importance seemed to be completely different in reference to the other BBC sources and CNN
 - o execution of the former Iraqi VP was second headline for radio news while for the BBC News 24 it was a sub-section of the special coverage on Iraq
 - o Both in the radio headlines and the in-depth stories on BBCWS Arabic Radio, the talks between Palestinian President Abu Mazan and Britain's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Margaret Beckett were looked at while the other BBC sources make no mention of these developments
 - o Interesting that both BBCWS and BBC News 24 report on the meeting between the US consul in Jerusalem and the Palestinian Finance Minister while CNN doesn't
- Some of the headlines (or the information in the headlines) on BBCWS Arabic (those referring to Iraq) seem to be the same as those covered in the BBC News 24 week long special coverage of four year anniversary of the conflict.
 - o 1/3 of the Iraqi police not loyal (featured on BBCWS on the 20/03/07 and on BBC News 24 SC the same day)
 - o Iraqi refugee problem (featured on BBCWS on the 20/03/07 and on the BBC News 24 SC on the 21/03/07)

Would be interesting to know on what grounds these stories were picked to be featured on the Arabic website as not all of the special coverage features were picked.

21/03/07

BBCWS Arabic:

Radio:

Headlines:

- **Four Years On – U.S. Forces, Iraqi police want contact with insurgents**
- Violence in Mogadishu
- Chirac supports Sarkozy in up-coming presidential elections in France
- Fire in Cairo apartment building injures dozens
- Muslim Brotherhood and other religious groups boycott discussions about parliamentary amendments in Egypt

In depth reports on the radio:

- Talks with insurgents **ع**
 - o Live Report from Baghdad explaining new stance of Iraqi government.
 - o Nour Al-Maliki has announced that Ahmad Shebani (linked to Mehdi Army and Muqtadar al Sadr) is being released from prison
- Fighting in Mogadishu intensifies
 - o Report from Mogadishu
 - o Reminder of the images in 1993 (Black Hawk down incident)
- General Strike in Israel called off
 - o 3,700 employees have called off a strike in Israel following developments in the negotiations to determine their salary
- 15 people sentenced in Algeria
 - o Biggest financial scandal in Algerian history
 - o Up to one billion dollars involved in scandal surrounding Al Khalifeh Bank

Website headlines:

- ***Death of insurgents in Iraq***
 - o Members of Al Qaeda have been killed in Fallujah according to coalition reports
 - o Government willing to talk to all sides but Al Qaeda – vice president Tareq Al - Hashimi
 - o Armed insurgents are all part of Iraqi society and will be talked to – just not Al Qaeda
 - o Police in the south are allied with Shia insurgency
 - o Hashimi claims that the best way to break the cycle of violence is for elections to be set up and monitored
 - o Hashimi goes on to explain that the occupation is the cause for the insurgency and that a timetable for withdrawal is needed.
 - o Explosions and operations continue in Baghdad
 - o Armed militias are joining the government in fighting Al Qaeda
- *14 killed in Mogadishu*

- Hundred fleeing Mogadishu
 - Fighting continues between government and Islamic militia
 - BBC Correspondent – Mohamad Walad Hasan - in Mogadishu says bodies of Ethiopian and Somali soldiers are being dragged through the streets – reminder of 1993
 - Government giving into militia in certain areas
 - Hasan è resistance entered with tanks and heavy fighting, city not calm enough to have crisis talks
 - BBC Africa analyst David Bamford – situation not about faith (Muslim vs. Christian), its far deeper than that
- *Congress decided to keep case going against Bush*
 - Issue of the debate surrounding the firing of the
 - Democrats want Alberto Gonzales to resign
 - Bush is saying he is against official testimonies but willing to have them answer to questions in front of the Congress (not under oath, behind closed doors) è democrats rejected idea
 - Congress voting on strip Gonzales of his powers to fire such individuals

BBC News 24 (21/03/07):

Main stories:

- **Budget 2007 – Gordon Brown introduces new budget.**
- Local Council Spending – Introduction of two new types of council tax
- Adam Regis Murder – Four arrests have been made in murder case of Adam Regis in London
- Tesco Land Deal – Tesco’s lands deal with British Land to fund further growth
- Submarine deaths – Two British sailors have died in an accident on the HMS Tireless in the Arctic Ocean
- Bob Woolmer death – Cricketers hold minute of silence for former Pakistani coach Bob Woolmer

Special coverage of Iraq Conflict (4 Years On):

- Live Basra feed Huw Edwards – Short documentary film about Um Qasr (initially shows vehicles they used to travel towards Um Qasr)
Documentary film on Um Qasr which has been described by the British as a great success story for them and for locals. However, local people are not satisfied. Interview with locals – British officers are only present in camps, good solution for security but not economically.
- Iraqi refugees è Lyse Doucet – Amman, Jordan, live coverage – gravity of crisis facing Jordan (taken up 10% of its population). Taken a big chunk of 2 million displaced in Iraq conflict. US and Britain taking in very few leaving it for neighbours including Syria (documentary from Syria interviewing refugees trying to) biggest move of people in Middle East since Palestine turned into Israel – officially they are welcome but Syrians are worried that violence will cross over, rising prices, Interview with Iraqi refugee – “Simple, I will be

killed with my family”, “I was hoping that my children will have a better life than I did, that will now not be happening”. Unlike the Palestinians, the Iraqis have a country to go back to – but how many years will it take.

- Sir Jeremy Greenstock – Former British Ambassador to Iraq – documentary film about how he feels about the war having served in Iraq. I remember saying don’t expect influence – 2 % of resources. Feel responsible but didn’t have the resources to make a difference. Feeling of helplessness, Iraq has a troubled life for many years to come.
- Huw Edwards – shows helicopter and interviews soldiers (roles, positions and feelings towards role of helicopter) Soldier says four years on he is satisfied with the progress (Iraqi army being set up, infrastructure)

Other special coverage:

- Primary coverage of new budget on BBC 24

On BBC website headlines:

- *Heavy fighting erupts in Somalia*
- *Bush advisers ordered to testify*
- *Israel union ends general strike*
- *Chirac backs Sarkozy in poll race*
- *Maoists in south Nepal gun Battle*
- *Iran ‘willing to act illegally’*

CNN (21/03/07):

On CNN website headlines:

- *Gore warns of planet ‘emergency’*
- *Neighbour: Zimbabwe sinking Titanic*
- *Coach Woolmer death ‘suspicious’*
- *Mogadishu: Bodies dragged, burned*
- *Israel prepares for worst with terror drill*
- *Iran threatens ‘illegal’ nuke work*
- *Lower-caste success still rare in India*
- *Britain’s apology for slavery sparks debate*

Anderson Cooper 360 – Michael Ware “These suicide bombings are done by Al Qaeda, let me remind you, Al Qaeda” – “These people believe they are speeding up the children’s way to heaven by involving in them in these attacks”

Notes 21/03/07:

- Although the story of U.S. forces and the Iraqi government officials opening lines of communications to insurgency groups for talks dominates BBCWS Arabic (both radio and website), it is interesting to note that neither BBC News 24 or CNN cover these details in their news coverage for the day.

- The comments made by Iraqi VP Hashimi towards insurgent groups had a very conciliatory tone. Seems to indicate a changing policy towards insurgent groups which had not been mentioned in great detail (or at all) on BBC News 24 or CNN in the last few days.
- Interesting to note that the Israeli union calling off the general strike was featured on BBCWS Arabic, BBC News 24 but also on Al Jazeera (both English and Arabic featured that story that day)
- The manner in which the issue about increasing refugees was covered on BBC News 24 was, in my opinion, more sympathetic than how it was covered on BBCWS (headline style reporting vs. documentary style reporting)
- BBCWS Arabic is definitely more focused on featuring stories important to the Middle East, which I would probably not come across if I were to get my news solely from other channels (e.g. story of Algerian bank case) ⇒ stories on BBCWS do however seem to be less detailed

22/03/07

BBCWS Arabic:

Radio:

- **Ban Ki-Moon says world community aims at restoring stability to Iraq and dealing with refugee crisis**
- Israeli PM Olmert says his country is willing to make great compromises for peace
- Somalis flee fighting in country as Al Qaeda is linked to violence
- Chirac opponents state they want a solution for Darfur

In depth reports on the radio:

- Explosion during meeting
 - o Short clip of when explosion strikes
 - o States the UN hopes to get more actively involved in the reconstruction of Iraq
 - o On other hand talks with insurgents go on
 - o Also - U.S. forces arrest Qais Al Khazani – spokesperson for Al Sadr – Americans claim he was involved in Karbala killings
- Israeli PM Olmert says his country is willing to make great compromises for peace
 - o In accordance to Saudi peace initiative
 - o Arab wide admission of Israel in return of occupied land
 - o Israel initially rejected plan in 2005
- Arrests in London bombings
 - o Two arrests at airport, on in Leeds
 - o Suspects have been taken to London for questioning
- Fighting between Somali forces and insurgents
 - o Four killed in new violence
 - o Short clip of Eric Laroche – UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia – claiming that people are fleeing Mogadishu

Website:

- ***Mortar rattles meeting between U.N. Secretary General and Maliki***
 - o Mortar landed inside Green zone, 50 metres from where conference was being held
 - o First visit to Iraq by UNSG
 - o On another note – Maliki has met with Ahmad Shebani and hopes he can get involved in turning “armed civilians” into loyalists
 - o Iraq TV has interviewed Shebani following his release
- ***New arrests in London 07/07 bombings:***
 - o Three arrested in connection with bombings
 - o Describes action taken by police and where the arrests took place

- London police quoted in the article as saying – “ Anyone involved in these attacks should be worried” “Tracking the trail of evidence in and outside the UK”
- Police attempting to determine whether there was outside involvement (Al Qaeda) and to what degree is such involvement was present
- *Abbas: The release of Shalit is imminent*
 - Close to final deal on kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit
 - Certain points still need to be discussed
 - Egyptians are involved in monitoring the talks between the various groups involved
 - Hoping Palestinian prisoners will be released in response
 - Israel made no comment in regards to these claims

BBC News 24 (22/03/07):

Main stories:

- **Terror Attacks: Police arrest three men. First significant event in 20 months. 2 held at Manchester Airport as they wanted to board a plane to Pakistan and one at Leeds – should be asking how to read into the timing of the arrest. Live Coverage from Paddington Green – Police has been trying to re-construct the organisation which planned the attacks.**
- Also tonight: Fierce fighting in Basra – British soldiers fighting insurgency in Basra
- Under fire in Baghdad: A taste of life for U.N. Security General in Baghdad
- 21/07 Trial – Judge informed that one of the suspects wanted to execute far bigger and more twisted attack than 07/07 (known as the Amir which means leader or prince)
- Ministry of Defence names two soldiers killed during blast on nuclear submarine

Special coverage of Iraq Conflict (4 Years On):

Huw Edwards – From Southern Iraq – British forces have been involved in heavy fighting with insurgents in Basra – situation looking grim

Special Report – Iraq – Under Attack – “Ability to track and defeat this enemy” – attack on Base and troops trying to get information out of Iraqis – British soldier explains people under threat by insurgents as well.

“Level of violence in and around Baghdad even higher than in Basra” Huw Edwards – UNSG news conference interrupted by mortar attack. UNSG shaken (video shown)

Kidnapping and increasing aspect of violence in Baghdad – Live Report from Baghdad on kidnappings in Iraq – Affects everyone, rich and poor, and paying ransom not an affirmation that these people will be returned alive

Short summary of attacks in Iraq - Baqouba – body found, Basra, Dora – 3 dead in two, Ameriyah bombing killed Iraqi soldier, 25 unidentified bodies found in Baghdad

More than 3,000 US soldiers killed, 50,000 wounded – complaints on treatment when they return to US. Regiment of amputees, brain damaged and severely burned è result of war. War was only supposed to last for a few months.

Vast majority of soldiers come back alive – Wounded to dead 60:1 – one of the undoubted success of the Iraq war, whole new set of painful issues, put pressure on structure of system (report goes on to report how a soldier, Jeremy Duncan, got 3 senior officials forced to resign – what Abu Ghraib wasn't able to do)

Last special broadcast from Iraq – Country still in a mess and levels of violence are terrifying. Met British troops – committed to building Iraq and even more important we met lots of Iraqis who want to build a better Iraq for their children.

On BBC website headlines:

- *UN chief shaken by Baghdad blast*
- *Three held over 7 July bombings*
- *Pakistan team face Woolmer questions*
- *Judge overturns US web porn law*
- *EU back for 'open skies' deal*
- ...

CNN (22/03/07):

- **Welcoming salvo – Insurgent rocket interrupts meeting between UN Chief and Maliki in Green Zone of Baghdad. Questions have started arising where insurgents are getting their weapons -**
- US Military arrest two brothers linked to Al Sadr which it accuses of being involved in Karbala killings, smuggled weapons from Iran
- Scores flee heavy fighting in Somalia's capital – Mohammad Ali Nur Somali Ambassador to Kenya short interview with his reaction to developments – Clashes come as government tried to clampdown on militants who were returning to Mogadishu. Leader of Islamists is an Al Qaeda fighter who was the target of American air strike in January
- Zimbabwe Opposition leaders arrive in S. Africa for treatment
- UK Terror Arrest - British police are holding three men on suspicion on involvement in London's July bombings. Chilling revelation for the victim's families – people believed it was a self-contained cell. Attempts to determine links to Al Qaeda and if Al Qaeda helped the terror cell on the ground in London
- Woolmer investigation into death of Pakistan's cricket coach
- Many young Indian couples embrace the notion of traditional marriage

Special Report – Tattoo artist's success after fall of Saddam Hussein – Relate it as a means of identification in case of suicide bombings. From bombs to body art. "They are a lot more open minded to western ideas". "A little forbidden pleasure"

Special Report – Famous flinches in history – Looking at other famous ducks and flinches in the history of reporting.

On CNN website headlines:

- *Three held over 7/7 London attacks*
- *Wife's cancer won't halt Edwards*
- *Blasts sends U.N. chief ducking in Baghdad*
- *Zimbabwe bishop ready to face guns*
- *EU backs transatlantic air deal*
- *Bloody Somalia battle in 2nd day*
- ...

Notes 22/03/07:

- On CNN and BBC News 24 (and BBC international website) the mortar attack on the Green Zone during the meeting between Ban Ki-Moon and Maliki is looked at more lightly than on BBCWS Arabic.
 - o Both channels concentrate on the manner in which the Secretary General flinched and ducked rather than the actual event
 - o CNN: “Welcoming Salvo” was the headline and a special report was carried to show other famous flinches and ducks in history.
 - o Headline and report on BBCWS Arabic focused on the issues discussed and other developments in Iraq (again the talks with insurgents is not mentioned on BBC or CNN)
- CNN carried special report on tattoo artists in Iraq following the fall of Saddam – very different from the topics chosen by the BBC to include in its week long special coverage to mark the four year anniversary of the war
- BBCWS Arabic is the only one of the news sources to carry the two stories on the developments in the Palestinian/Israeli conflict

23/03/07

BBCWS Arabic:

Radio:

- **2008 Set as deadline by Congress for troop withdrawal**
- Suicide bombings kill 6 people – Iraqi deputy PM injured in one of the attacks
- 15 British navy personnel arrested by Iran
- Zimbabwe – Mugabe states that resistance leader will never become president of Zimbabwe

In depth reports on the radio:

- Congress sets final date for Iraq withdrawal
 - o Vote could still be vetoed in Congress
 - o Other developments in Iraq ➔ attack on deputy PM
- Margaret Beckett:
 - o 15 Navy personnel were arrested in the waters of the Gulf
 - o Expecting immediate release and that the sailors are in good health
 - o Nick Lambert (British navy official) ➔ expects they were in Iraqi waters
 - o UK wants quick and peaceful resolution to this crisis
- Plane in Somalia burns down
 - o Uncertain if it was shot down by missile
 - o Third day of fighting and reports emerging of Ethiopian troops opening fire on buildings
- ICJ plans to continue trial in reference to deaths in Darfur
 - o Investigation into role of State Minister Ahmad Haroon
 - o Lawyer states that investigation is perfectly legal and that he expects him to be found to be innocent
- Moroccan court sentences 50 people in reference to planned terrorist attack
 - o 50 Islamists were convicted for their role in the alleged plan to overthrow the monarchy in Morocco
 - o Sentencing had been delayed three times
 - o Lawyers of the accused did not show up in court

Website:

- Breakdown and flames on plane at Mogadishu airport
 - o Plane crashed after leaving airport south of Mogadishu
 - o Eye witnesses saw missile
 - o Too early to judge cause of plane crash
 - o Reports of “Hudna” (cease-fire) ➔ which if true is at its best fragile and probably won’t last
 - o Ethiopian troops opened fire on buildings which are thought to hold members of the Islamic militia (Hawiye group)
 - o If “Hudna” exists, it is meant to take hold Friday (23/03/07) at midnight

- Head of Hawiye group is being accused by America of being linked to Al Qaeda and receiving training in Afghanistan
- British troops held hostage
 - Meetings have been held in London to secure the release of 15 British navy personnel
 - Meeting was swift and ended on a positive note
 - British navy official Lambert quoted as saying that the sailors were performing a routine inspection when they were captured
 - Certain they were in Iraqi waters
 - Incident comes a day before UNSC is due to meet to vote on resolution which could impose new sanctions on Iran
- U.S. Congress sets withdrawal date for Iraq
 - Withdrawal set for end of August 2008 (budget of 124 billion runs out then)
 - Most prominent change initiated by democrats
 - War in Iraq main reason for republican demise
 - Opponents say gutting fund means danger for troops in Iraq

BBC News 24 (23/03/07):

Main stories:

- **Troubled Waters – Britain demands the immediate release of 15 British service personnel kidnapped in waters before the Iraqi coast. The diplomatic dispute surrounding this issue has intensified. Seized by Iranian forces in northern Gulf. “Detained at gunpoint by Iranian Revolutionary Guard.” All were taken from HMS Cornwall. (Report from HMS Cornwall – Exclusive footage of boat that was seized by British troops before they were held.**
 - **Interview with Nick Lambert – (same as the one on Arabic Radio) Images of some of the crew that was captured. Navy confident it will get them home soon. Shows the reaction of the troops on the HMS Cornwall – day of heightened tension, difficult**
- President Ahmedinajad drops his plans to visit UN Security Council on Saturday as firmer sanctions can be imposed on his country. Iran claims the US has delayed the arrival
 - Report starts with Iran/Britain stand-off. Further tension. Country defied orders to stop enriching uranium. More sanctions on the way after more negotiations. Ban on arms export, loans, and freezing key assets – part of firmer sanctions. French Ambassador and US Ambassador to the UN short clip. Delayed visa to Iranian aircrew – US claims Iranian President just wants excuse not to come. Seizure of British servicemen underlines volatile state of relation between Iran and the West
- Condoleezza Rice leaves US for Mid. East tour – US doesn't officially recognize new PA government but has agreed to hold talks with certain members of the newly formed PA government.
- Gonzales approved plan to fire several US attorneys

- Guantanamo Hearings – The U.S. claim that an inmate of the Guantanamo detention centre has admitted to a role in the US embassy bombings in Africa. The detainee is meant to have apologized to the victims and American government for his acts.
- President Bush says he will veto the bill released by House when it gets before Congress – House set a deadline for troop pullout by September next year. President Bush has said he would veto the vote.
- Suicide Bomber injures Iraqi deputy Prime Minister – The deputy PM is meant to be undergoing surgery in a hospital in America's green zone.
- Claims made in court that 21/7 bomber Muqtar Saeed Ibrahim had contacts with the 7/7 bombers. Was in Pakistan at the same time as they were and is alleged to have contacts with the leader of the group which carried out the 7/7 bombing. Images
- Pakistani Coach Woolmer knew his killer – Jamaican police

Special Report:

Israel vs. Britain in a football match late on Saturday:

- On the Israeli side there are two Israeli Arab players. Israeli Arabs still feel ostracized in Israeli society. Interview with Israel Arab soccer player. Lyrics of a well known Israeli Arab group "Damned" – rap primarily in Arabic but also in Hebrew. They say they want Jewish Israelis to hear their message. "They call us the cancer in the heart of Israel". Stranger in my own country – is that how you feel. "In school I used to be asked to sing the national anthem. In it they sing 'The country for the Jewish soul'. I am not Jewish; I am Palestinian and a Muslim. So I don't feel welcome". Israeli Arabs have three political parties, can vote and have full political rights but can they feel loyal to the Israeli state or will they always identify with the Palestinian cause. "The Enemy from within" that is what right wing members call them. Some have been involved in attacks but the most say the destruction of Israel isn't their aim. Interview with Israeli Arab Knesset member. Strives are being made in the world of football – teamwork between Arabs and Israelis. Off the pitch tensions are rising.

On BBC website headlines:

- *UK sailors captured at gunpoint*
- *21 July plotter 'linked to 7/7'*
- *Police hunt for Woolmer killers*
- *Airbus workers walk out over jobs*
- *More time to quiz 7 July suspects*
- *Plane 'shot down' in Somali city*
- *Iraq deputy PM injured in blast*
- *Police probe web cam chat death*
- ...

CNN (23/03/07):

On CNN website headlines:

- *UK demands Iran return sailors*
- *House passes Iraq deadline bill*
- *Mugabe: Bush, Blair don't scare me*
- *Cricket coach strangled – police*
- *World Cup Continues despite murder*
- *7/7 suspects questioned*
- *Divisions mar EU's 50th birthday*
-

Notes 23/03/07:

- Iraq withdrawal plan (and the continuing violence in Iraq) dominated the headline of BBCWS Arabic while the diplomatic crisis surrounding the Iranian capture of 15 British navy personnel dominated the other channels
- Interesting to note that CNN refers to the “Persian Gulf” while BBC (all three BBC sources) refers to the area simply as the Gulf (or Khalij in Arabic). BBC is thus not taking a side in the debate surrounding what to call the waterway (with the term Khalij Al Arabi, or Arab Gulf, being used by Arabs since the emergence of the pan Arab movement in the 1960s while Iran and most of the international community still refer to it as the Persian Gulf or Khalij al Farsi)
- CNN fails to mention developments in Somalia

24/03/07

BBCWS Arabic:

Radio:

Headlines:

- **UNSC imposes new sanctions on Iran**
- Rice in Egypt to meet Arab Quartet
- Israeli Defence Minister Amir Peretz meets Ban Ki-Moon to discuss peace prospects and Iran

In depth reports on the radio:

:

- UNSC passes resolution on Iran
 - o Strong message to Iran
 - o UNSC claims this is due to continuous enrichment (Iran claims it is peaceful)
- Rice in Egypt:
 - o Discuss moving the peace process further
 - o Set to meet with Mubarak on Sunday – also discuss controversial amendments
- Iranian army claims British navy personnel admits entering Iranian water
 - o Iran claims to have evidence
 - o British describes the move to capture these sailors as antagonizing (Adwani – from 3adoo which means enemy)
- Ban Ki-Moon and Peretz discuss Middle East peace process
 - o Similar talks held by Ban Ki-Moon in Egypt
 - o Attempts to find solutions to outstanding issues of the conflict
 - o Reporter goes on to say that such diplomatic efforts are unprecedented in the Middle East – hope to find a solution to the problems
- Holmes barred from entering refugee camp in Darfur
 - o Sudanese official claims it was due to a misunderstanding
 - o Official: Holmes can travel freely and without restrictions
- Iraq violence continues
 - o 60 dead in attacks across the country
 - o 20 die in an attack on a police station in Baghdad
 - o 8 die in attack on Shia mosque

Website:

- ***UNSC imposes new sanctions on Iran***
 - o Due to nuclear programme
 - o Stopping sale of weapons to/from Iran and freezing the assets of 28 people involved in the programme
 - o 1/3 of those funds are connected to the Revolutionary Guard
 - o Security Council hops this is a strong signal to Iran
 - o Iran claims nuclear programme is peaceful

- *Rice meets with Arab Quartet in Egypt*
 - o Meeting to take place in Aswan between Rice and foreign ministers from Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the UAE
 - o Rice meant to press American agenda on the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, Iraq and Sudan
 - o Abu Ghaith stated as saying he is looking forward to hearing American opinion on this
 - o Rice had made statements that he is disappointed in Egypt for not being beacon of democracy in M.E. – refers to amendments
 - o Problem of Hamas refusal to accept Israel and lay down resistance

- *British soldiers admit to entering Iranian waters*
 - o Head of Iraqi navy ě Hakim Jasim ě Iranian vessels were outside Iraqi waters when this incident took place
 - o Reports that they have been moved to Iran
 - o Iranian official – Ibrahim Rahim Bur - hopes this send a clear message to Britain to respect international law and Iranian waters
 - o Diplomats meet in London
 - o British official in Basra – Iran is supplying insurgency with weapons. Although there is no strict evidence that they come from Iran, he is certain they wouldn't be there if it wasn't for Iran
 - o Reports that Iran is paying 500 USD a month to individuals who attack coalition forces

BBC News 24 (24/03/07)

Headlines:

Breaking News: UN Security Council imposes new sanctions on Iran

1 Hour later - Report from UN Building in James Perry – incident in Gulf totally separate issue – taking every opportunity to emphasise that we demand the early release of these sailors (footage of sailors) – Admiral Sir Alan West – Incident might have been planned from the top (combination of the earlier news report on 15 sailors and the imposing of the sanctions on Iran ě connecting the stories!)

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki dismisses sanctions – clip of his speech from inside the UN

Breaking News: Captain of Pakistan team has been asked to remain in Jamaica – extensive coverage of the incident and various interviews/opinions from experts and individuals connected to team.

- **Navy kidnapping – 15 navy personnel are thought to be on the way to Tehran to explain what they explain to be aggressive actions. Confusion over whereabouts. HMS Cornwall has only just begun the task of being the flagship of the Mid. East fleet. “Yesterdays incident might have been planned from the top.” Iranian Ambassador called to the. Clip from Iranian news – according to their TV. Documents and navigation tools**

are an indication of the illegal nature of British manoeuvre. Iran claims entered illegally committed a suspicious act and the sailors have already admitted to entering waters illegally. Could all be show like two years ago – clip from interview. Then the incident ended quickly – intense diplomatic efforts to gain the safe release this time.

- Frances Harrison – BBC Tehran Correspondent – Whereabouts of 15 sailors (Sub-heading Tehran:”admit aggressive behaviour”, “vessels illegally in Iranian waters) Last time the “hostage drama” ended the day they were meant to be moved to Tehran – if they are brought to Tehran the whole story will get more political weight.
 - Foreign Office – Interview with Robin Brant Political Correspondent – Linked to bigger picture of relations Iran has with rest of world. Has to be thought of in connection with the pending Resolution which is meant to be adopted.
 - Interview with Admiral Alan West – moved much more quickly. Orchestrated from the centre – the revolutionary guard started it last time.
- Woolmer murder – Body to be kept in Jamaica.
 - Slave trade abolition – ‘Walk of Witness’ - Church repents its role in the slave trade on the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slave trade.
 - Dozens die in fresh attacks – Explosion at police station kills both detainees and policemen in Baghdad
 - Happy half century – the EU celebrates its half century this weekend with street parties and a special summit in Berlin.

Special documentary: Interview with Marine Scott Fallon who was captured in Iraqi waters in 2004. Says they were blind folded and hands tied – moved around from place to place. “We were just doing a normal reconnaissance mission.” As the situation escalates – you start thinking the worst more and more. The treatment made them think that it’s all not a good sign (thought they will be executed).

On BBC website headlines:

Breaking news – UN backs fresh sanctions on Iran

- *Iran claims UK admits incursion*
- *Dozens die in fresh Iraq attacks*
- *Cricket match fixing warning*
- *Envoy barred from Darfur camp*
- *EU birthday to mark ‘new phase’*
- *Rice begins new Mid-East mission*
- *U.S. pullout ‘would undermine Iraq’*
- *Woolmer’s body kept in Jamaica*
- ...

CNN (24/03/07):

CNN – Live Coverage of speech of Manoucheher Mottaki (Iranian Foreign Minister)

Special Report – Muslim in America – Followers seek to educate about true nature of Islam

What has the Islamic Faith meant to immigrants?

Soumaya Khalifa and African American Imam – discussion with CNN anchor on role of Muslims in the US. View African Americans have towards hostility towards religion and immigrants from their position. Muslims want to be part of the greater picture. Some immigrants want to blend in but the most (because America is such a free country) want to actively pursue their religious identity. Realizing what true Islam is and bringing people together (bridging people from different parts of the world). African Americans want to take America to the next stage – immigrants want better opportunities – those that have been here want to raise the community of American towards the dreams that make up America. Since 9/11 Muslims see the need to improve understanding towards Islam – most of us want that America

On CNN website headlines:

Breaking News: Security Council approves new sanctions on Iran

- *Iran: Troops ‘confess’ trespassing*
- *Pakistani team heads home*
- *UN set to back new Iran sanctions*
- *Qaeda group: We attacked deputy PM*
- *Tornadoes smash through New Mexico*
- *Jeb Bush denied honorary degree*
- *Thai army chief says no to PM job*
- *Ambitious treaty for EU’s birthday*

Notes 24/03/07:

- Reports on BBCWS Arabic are for the first time just as detailed as BBC News 24 when it comes to the diplomatic crisis between the UK and Iran. Articles tended to contain less information and be generally shorter but seems to not be the case with this story
- Only BBCWS mentions comments made by Iraqi navy official Hakim Jasim which suggest eyewitness reports that the British vessels were in Iranian water
- BBCWS covers new efforts made by international community (visit of Ban Ki-Moon and Rice) to highlight the increasing effort being put into the Middle East peace process

25/03/07

BBCWS Arabic:

Radio:

Headlines

- **Israel: “Palestinians and Israelis have joint agenda”**
- Arab Quartet come up with agenda for Saudi summit indication stance on Arab initiative will not change
- Mauritania – General elections get underway
- Continuous demonstrations in Egypt in response to the suggested constitutional amendments set forth by President Husni Mubarak

In-depth:

- Rice: “Joint agenda a step forward”
 - o Press conference with Abbas
 - o New unity government should recognize Israel and commit to roadmap
 - o Abbas: “More meetings with Olmert planned in the near future
 - o They won’t accept any compromises regarding UN resolutions
 - o Strikes held in Gaza for kidnapped BBC journalist Alan Johnson
- Kuwait – New government in Kuwait
 - o Ends fears of instability since last government was dissolved a month ago
 - o Takes into consideration all liberals, moderates and also limits the power of the royal family in government affairs
 - o Two female ministers – pivotal and historical event for Kuwait
- Ahmadinejad: “Iran won’t stop enriching Uranium”
 - o Made statements on his official website
 - o New sanctions force Iran to re-evaluate relations with those countries involved
 - o Mottaki – Iran is ready to direct formal allegations against Britain for entering Iranian waters
 - o Blair at the EU 50 Year Anniversary states it is illegal to detain marines
 - o Iran claims Britain intentionally entered Iranian waters
- EU celebrates 50th birthday in Berlin
 - o Summit held in Berlin
 - o Calls to revive constitution
 - o Reminder at conference of the need to act in Darfur

Website:

- ***Rice strives to push peace process forward***
 - o Agenda one step closer to creating a Palestinian state

- Renewed efforts to settle issue
 - Both sides of the Palestinian side should hold dialogue
 - Essential for P.A. to accept the Quartet's conditions
 - Olmert criticises Abbas for forming unity government before securing the release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit
 - P.A. denies such a promise and said Abbas said he promised to do his best
 - Rice met Mubarak in Aswan and denied intentions to change Saudi peace initiative
 - Rice expressed worries towards amendments – could hinder democratic process
 - Trip a sign of increased efforts of America to initiate peace process, seventh visit in 8 month. ***Unprecedented efforts in the region to reach an agreement*** Yet, U.S. still refuse to talk to Hamas ministers as they ***consider them terrorists***
- *Iran announces it will lessen cooperation with the IAEA*
 - Ahmadinejad è this comes as a response to the new sanctions, describes sanctions as illegal
 - Iran will re-evaluate its relations with those nations behind the sanctions – article comments that the Iranian president did not mention any measures
 - Solana hopes to re-open dialogue with Iran on issue (contacts to Iranian nuclear negotiator Al Rijlani)
 - BBC Correspondent – Stance from Iranian government is that it won't start talks with nuclear agency till world community accepts Iran's right to a peaceful programme
 - Iranian FM Mottaki: Iran is not attempting to antagonize anyone. Is not looking for a face-off but will not stand down on its rights
 - *Survey to be held in Egypt to determine publics stance on amendments*
 - Opposition claims amendments are against religious groups and cuts freedom of religion
 - Rice worried; Mubarak claims amendments are necessary è amendments open door to democracy
 - Jamal Mubarak, in charge of the political affairs of Hizb al Watani (party in power), states amendments a good step forward
 - Egyptian response to Rice's comment was negative – America shouldn't meddle in internal affairs
 - In Cairo hundreds demonstrated before police violently dispersed demonstrations
 - Reuters witnesses claim police crackdown was quite violent, even on journalists (confiscated all footage)
 - "Muslim Brotherhood" and "Movement Enough" – wore black and raised signs in protest. Movement enough called on activists to demonstrate on Monday.

BBC News 24 (25/03/07):

Headlines:

- **Captured Marines - “Unjustified and wrong” – Tony Blair calls on Tehran to free hostages amid calls in Iran to put the sailors on Trial. Britain’s ambassador demanded to know where the marines are – summoned to explain Britain’s aggressive behaviour. Feared fate of sailors has become part of the wider picture surrounding the controversy of Iran’s nuclear programme. Iranian president has announced decreased co-operation with IAEA in response to sanctions. Iran’s FM said in New York that charging the British personnel is being investigated.**
 - o **Clip of Blair – Act unjustified and wrong è adamant the sailor’s were not in Iranian waters. Negotiations can be delicate and long**
 - o **Interview with Simon Henderson – Washington Institute for Near East Politics – Not certain what Tehran is attempting to achieve by this – Iran might see it as a powerful diplomatic opportunity (get own captives back or humiliate ‘great royal navy’). Thinks it is possible that the sailors might be put on trial. Might be trying to see what they can get away with. General view there is that the situation is tense è infinite possibilities of things getting bad very quickly**
- Woolmer murder – CCTV footage to be used to identify killer è extensive coverage of case (various interviews/clips in reference to Woolmer investigation)
- New EU Constitution? – A new EU constitution might be on the way as Germany attempts to push for the issue within its presidency. Opposition it is monstrous to press ahead with the issue without resolving issue of French and Dutch ‘No’ votes
- Labour’s big guns divided over their next leader è Jack Straw announced he will run Gordon Brown’s campaign. Peter Mandelson – would like to see new generation deciding who would run Labour (David Millerband – the candidate some people would like to see running instead of Gordon Brown)
- N. Ireland – Intense efforts to resolve power sharing issue between factions as time is running out before tomorrow’s London set deadline. Another deadline slips by tomorrow – but old enemies could be sharing power by may.
- Sri Lanka’s airport under attack – Tamil rebels attack airbase next to airport forcing it to close down for the day
- 200 Years On – Abolition of Slave Trade - Jamaican’s hold ceremonies and prayer service to remember the lives lost in the ‘black holocaust’

On BBC website headlines:

- *EU leaders call for rapid reforms*
- Sri Lanka’s main airport attacked
- Woolmer police study hotel tapes
- Iran reduces nuclear access
- Belarusian rally ends in clashes
- Gaza rally for BBC correspondent
- Earthquakes rock Pacific nations
- Foreign hostages freed in Nigeria
- Iran seizure ‘wrong’ says Blair
-

CNN 25/03/07:

On CNN website:

- Diplomats tour coach's room
- Blair: Troop seizure very serious
- Iran rejects UN sanctions
- Rice pushes common Mideast agenda
- Envoy: 'Fragile' balance in Darfur
- Merkel to EU: Avoid historic error
- 1 dead, 160 hurt in Japan quake
- Formal UK slavery apology urged
- Club deaths follow 'fire show'
- 2 missing from cruise ship rescued
-

Notes 25/03/07:

- BBCWS again covering stories which are predominantly relevant to the Middle East and which do not get coverage in the other news sources (e.g. Egyptian survey concerning amendments, new government in Kuwait)
- Palestinian/Israeli developments covered differently on BBCWS Arabic:
 - o Generally receiving more coverage than other channels (BBC News 24 or the website make no mention of the meetings held in the West Bank and Israel)
 - o Article on BBCWS points out that these efforts to reach an agreement are unprecedented in Middle East history
 - o BBCWS article refers to U.S. stance on Hamas as viewing them as terrorists – harsher than usual wording when referring to American stance on Hamas (usually put as being that they refuse to negotiate with them till they renounce violence, recognize Israel)
- The debate surrounding the imposition of amendments only received detailed coverage on BBCWS
 - o CNN only briefly mentions the issue in the article and fails to mention Egyptian opposition to what they see as attempted American involvement in internal Egyptian affairs

26/03/07:

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **Rice – On-going negotiations to reach progress with Israeli/Palestinian conflict.** Ban Ki – Moon stats that more talks are needed
- Egypt – Opposition believes that vote on amendments is fraudulent
- Mauritania – First free elections see candidate with 53% of the vote

Stories covered in-depth:

- Rice meets Olmert and Abbas to attain joint agenda:
 - o Rice wants to work with moderate states (as decided by the U.S.) and the Arab quartet
 - o Saab Erakat states that limiting talks is impossible at this time
- Egypt – Opposition boycott votes and claims that limitations to freedom behind steps to fight terrorism
 - o Turnout very low
 - o Only Hizb Al Watani members seen voting
 - o Vote considered fraudulent
- Mauritania: Sheikh Abdullah states that 53% have gone to independent candidate
 - o Candidate claims to be supported by the army
 - o First free election since 1960
- War in Iraq - Americans launch operations in Ramadi
 - o Operations target Al Qaeda insurgents
 - o Between 1 and 2 individuals arrested who collaborate with terrorists
 - o Operations also going on in West Baghdad
- Blair – Historical day in Northern Ireland
 - o Agreement on power sharing reached
 - o Joint government to take control in May
 - o Clips of Paisley and Adams
- Iran – Questioning soldiers
 - o Iranian official Mahdi Mustafawi rejects British and Iraqi assurances of the actions on that day being just an ‘incident’ inside Iraqi waters
 - o Denies Iran is hoping to exchange British marines for Iranians previously arrested by Americans in Iraq

Website:

- *Rice pushes for joint Palestinian and Israeli agenda*
 - o Meeting in Amman with Abbas and King Abdullah before going back to Israel
 - o Concluding talks with Abbas ⇒ Erakat announces Palestinian and American agreement to continue working towards talks with Israel
 - o Abbas complains about embargo, freezing of assets, settlements and the wall – all issues which he says are brought onto the Palestinians
 - o In reference to Arab initiative, Rice has rejected that America seeks to change it (but needs to be applicable)
 - o Beirut initiative – Land for normalisation
 - o Importance of getting Palestinian prisoners and Gilad Shalit released
 - o Abbas asks for weapons to enter territories to boots security
 - o Abdullah re-enforces two state solution in Amman
 - o Some Arab diplomats are stating efforts to make sure Israel is not using its position in the media to make it look like Arabs are responsible for violence and have missed previous opportunities for peace

- *Traffickers sink hundreds of trafficked people near Yemeni coast*
 - o According to UNWRA 29 dead and 71 missing
 - o Ethiopian and Somali refugees trying to get to Saudi Arabia
 - o 293 survivors
 - o Incident took place on ship where traffickers forced 450 to jump off at knife point
 - o 282 already killed this year, last year up to 600 dead or missing

- *Very small turn-up to vote on amendments*
 - o Unofficial statement claims that turn-out was low and opposition claims it will turn Egypt into a police state
 - o Officially figure is between 23 and 27% but unofficial sources but it even lower
 - o Some sources suggest 5% or lower
 - o Centre for women's rights says that in certain provinces were only allowed to enter and vote if they assured they would vote for the amendments
 - o National employees were driven to booths to vote for amendments
 - o Opposition says that 34 amendments will turn Egypt into police state; curb religious freedom
 - o Government claims that it will spread democracy and help in war against terror
 - o Opposition rejects vote
 - o All centres were late for opening
 - o BBC Correspondent Hiba Saleh said that opposition views day as black Monday which will kill the constitution under the pretext of freedom and democracy. BBC correspondent says that it's the result of Muslim Brotherhood's increased election success
 - o Rice worried about amendments

BBC News 24 (26/03/07):

Main stories:

- **N. Ireland deal:**
 - o PM: Important day for N. Ireland, welcomes power-sharing deal
 - o Power-sharing place to take effect on May 8th ⇒ date a result of leader's first meeting in person (Paisley: We must create a stable future, Adams: Beginning of a new era of politics)
 - o Two largest political parties coming together
 - o Assembly had been suspended since 2002
 - o Clip of press conference (speech held by Paisley and Adams)
- **Captured Navy Personnel** - Sailors held in Tehran at military base – Highly placed Iranian source has revealed to the BBC that they are being held in Tehran by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Core. Being interrogated by a combination of judiciary, executive and intelligence personnel
- **Woolmer death** – Pakistani coach Woolmer had resigned just hour before he was killed – E-mail sent out before his death to confirm his resignation
- **Awol Soldiers** – Hundreds of British soldiers have run away from their regiments – Numbers released from MoD – Soldier's can't deal with the prospect of returning for duty in Iraq or Afghanistan (Panorama BBC reveals that more than a 1000 soldiers are running away from duty)
- **Anna Nicole** – Anna Nicole Smith died of accidental overdose claim Florida police. No criminal elements present in the incident
- **Alzheimer's Drugs** – Watchdog has ruled not to prescribe drugs to patients with early case of Alzheimer's. Maker's can challenge watchdog ruling. The drugs cost effectiveness being questioned.
- **Songs of Praise** – Pre-recording is value for money. BBC had pre-recorded the Easter special just hours after recording the Christmas edition in November of last year.

On BBC website headlines:

- *Historic N Ireland deal reached*
- *Iraqi deaths survey 'was robust'*
- *Drug overdose killed Anna Nicole*
- *Iran says seized UK sailors 'well'*
- *Guantanamo hearing for Hicks*
- *Woolmer police 'rule out no-one'*
- *Mass drowning in Yemen*
- *BBC rallies for missing reporter*
- *Unfinished Tolkien due in April*

CNN (26/03/07):

Main stories:

- **Historic Day: After decades of conflict political rivals agree to form a power-sharing government**
 - o Two long time rivals on the political and religious divides agree to share power and restore self-rule
 - o For the first time ever they did sit down together and negotiated

- Hope that murderous sectarianism that killed 3,600 people over three decades is over.
- N. Ireland beginning to enjoy new era of secure prosperity (Sinn Fein has laid down it's arms and so have other nationalist groups)
- **Autopsy results** – What caused the death of Anna Nicole Smith? Autopsy reveals overdose was cause of death of former Playboy model. None of the drugs were illegal and foul play was not involved
- **Arrested Royal Navy Marines** – Reports emerging that the British sailors have been moved to Tehran for further interrogations
- **Iran Nuclear Dispute:** Amadinejad: “Enrichment will proceed”; US Under Secretary of State Burns – Iran reaction is incorrect, blaming the world but it's not the global community to blame. World is not denying the right to a peaceful programme but rather to the illegal enrichment for nuclear arms.
- **The heat of battle** – Five years after the fall of the Taliban the battle continues and British troops are caught in the middle of battle (Journalist embedded with the troops – Reports from battlefield)
 - Royal Marines poised for risky patrol
 - A lot of people flooding out of the area (combat indicator, armed men moving into positions)
 - Attack happened on open ground, gun fire very close (planned attack)
 - Taliban were in at least 12 other positions (very sophisticated attack, six kinds of weapons)
 - Troops began to withdraw after two hours
 - They are playing a long way on their ground and they are many. Beginning of a long war ahead
- **War on Terror** – Australian suspects arraigned under new rules
- **Cricket Mystery** – Jamaica police say they need more time to look at CCTV footage retrieved from the hotel

On CNN website headlines:

- *Anna Nicole: Overdose accidental*
- *N. Irish power deal 'marks new era'*
- *Putin, Hu urge Iran to play ball*
- *Pakistan: No Woolmer death links*
- *Bodyguard accused in Iraq attack*
- *Britain demands access to sailors*
- *29 refugees killed in stormy seas*
- *Italy seeks 5 years for Berlusconi*
- *Busta Rhymes trial date set*
- *Secretive country unveils new city*

Notes 26/03/07

- The different order between the BBCWS Arabic and the other two channels was striking again today. While BBCWS Arabic predominantly covered the developments on the Palestinian/Israeli negotiations, neither the English BBC sources nor CNN reported on those issues. The same applies to the stories covering the developments with the vote concerning the amendments in Egypt

or the election in Mauritania (** To be honest, first time I ever see/hear Mauritania covered on the news – whether in the Middle East or Europe è really shows the wide audience of BBCWS Arabic) On the other hand only the BBC website carried a story regarding the missing BBC journalist Alan Johnson in Gaza

- The CNN report on the British soldiers in Afghanistan was interesting to watch and shed light on a conflict which is very rarely reported about – Interesting that CNN was embedded with British troops è in past two weeks BBC (whether Arabic or English) has not covered a direct story on the situation in Afghanistan while the documentary seemed to illustrate a dangerous and uncertain picture of the situation there.

27/03/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- Arab Quartet meets in Riyadh tomorrow to further Arab peace initiative
- Arab peace process becoming more complicated with the emergence of Palestinian unity government
- 80 killed in violence across Iraq as new law is to be issued allowing former Baathists to become government officials
- Britain threatens further action against Iran while Tehran allows contact to captured sailors

Stories covered in-depth:

- Arab Quartet meets in Riyadh to further Arab peace initiative:
 - o Continuation of plans drawn up in Beirut in 2002
 - o Principle of peace and recognition from all Arab states for land occupied in 1967
 - o Abbas thinks its best opportunity for peace in the region in a very long time
 - o Palestinian delegation member (clip) **è** won't accept chances but optimistic
 - o Arab ministers will also discuss Darfur tomorrow
- Rice hopes Arab world embraces Israel and that peace will become reality
 - o Olmert and Abbas have agreed to regular meeting
 - o Rice reiterates need for the Palestinian government to recognize Israel
 - o Believes the U.S. needs to find a way to delegate between the two sides of the conflict
- 50 killed, 100s wounded in Tal Afar
 - o Two truck bombs set off explosions in market area of Tal Afar
 - o Explosion also rocks Ramadi Tuesday evening killing at least 10 people
- Egypt – People vote in favour of amendments
 - o Opposition says victory was expected as the election was fraudulent
 - o 67% voted in favour of amendments
 - o Minister of Justice states that voter turn-out was very low
- Blair announces new phase of diplomacy of efforts for release fail
 - o Blair states it's unacceptable to hold the 15 captive
 - o British diplomat clarified Blair's statements saying that more public diplomatic efforts were meant
 - o Britain welcomed announcement that the soldiers were in good health

- Burma unveils its new capital Naypidaw
 - o New capital about 500 km north of former capital Rangoon

Website:

- ***Insurgents (Musala7oon) kill 50 people in truck bombings in Iraq***
 - o Police: Two explosions in Tal Afar have killed 50 people
 - o Biggest attack since Bush highlighted Tal Afar as an example of success in Iraq
 - o Coalition forces announce the arrest of two individuals believed to be part of a bigger ring of insurgents that has killed 900 people
 - o Bush had highlighted that it had been freed from Al Qaeda in his speech to the third anniversary of the invasion
 - o AP: Two nuns killed in Kirkuk
 - o 18 killed in other violence around the country

- ***Britain in secret (unannounced) talks with Iran***
 - o Talks concerning the release of 15 British sailors held by Iran
 - o Blair announced if talks fail other steps can be taken
 - o High ranking Iraqi official expressed surprised that the British ships were operation in that area, Jasim (Iraqi Navy Official in charge of Iraqi waters) said he wasn't sure whether it was Iranian or Iraqi waters that the ship was in and said British navy usually doesn't operate there
 - o British officials and the Iraqi FM assure that the vessels were in Iraqi waters conducting activities allowed under the UN Resolution
 - o Blair said incident with Revolutionary Guard members in Baghdad different as they were breaching international law when they were there
 - o Frank Gardner (BBC Correspondent) – Iran sources states they are being interrogated by officials
 - o Cobra called up in London – only called up in times of crisis. Last time it was called up was 7/7, fuel prices and Sept. 11th

- **American Navy conducting military exercises in Gulf:**
 - o Biggest military exercise since 2003 (fiscally as well)
 - o Exercise comes as there are rising tensions between Iran and the UK
 - o U.S. states that timing not intentional
 - o U.S. Navy Official Kevin Andel states these operations are to increase security and stability in the region
 - o Boats are involved in operations in Afghanistan and Iraq
 - o Have to conduct operations in Bakhr Al Arab as Iran does not permit them to use the Gulf and fly over Iran to get to Afghanistan
 - o French ship also stationed in the area as it is conducting operations in Afghanistan
 - o France member of the group of EU states pressing Iran on its nuclear programme

BBC News 24 (27/03/07):

Main stories:

- **Captured Navy Crew - Warning to Iran – Blair – ‘Britain poised to different phase if negotiations do not succeed in assuring release of sailors’**
 - o If quiet diplomacy does not work, there is more Britain can do
 - o Governments Emergency Committee Cobra met today and Foreign Secretary cut foreign trip short
 - o Video of female sailor being held in Tehran hours before she was captured – Says how she is aware of dangers of the job
 - o Britain is threatening to release coordinates which prove that they were in Iraqi waters
 - o Threatens with more aggressive diplomacy (Clip of Tony Blair)
 - o Vessel still anchored where it was in Iraqi waters, location seems to be in Iraqi waters
 - o Iran responding to what it calls increased pressure – creating a furore will not ensure release
 - o Beckett expected to make statement in front of House of Commons
 - o Clip from Bahrain (BBC Correspondent who had interviewed female sailor who had been captured) è no doubt at all that the vessels were in Iraqi waters (pulled out maps to indicate location – British authorities seem to be confident that they have that evidence, question whether they need to produce it – they want a quick resolution)
- **Woodhams murder** – Teenager convicted of killing a young father, Peter Woodhams, on his doorstep in East London
- **Rising Child Poverty** – Number went up by a 100,000. Biggest gain in six years. Nearly 3,000,000 living in poverty – still less than when Labour came to power
- **Protest at Ceremony** – Protester interrupts ceremony being held to commemorate the abolition of slave trade 200 years ago – Queen, PM were present
- **Japan Murder** – Young English teacher found dead in Japan. Her body had been put in bathtub with sand in her apartment in Tokyo.
- **Racing Green** – Documentary film on the fastest ‘green’ cars available
- Special Report on bullying amongst youths

On BBC website headlines:

- *UK in ‘discreet talks’ with Iran*
- *Truck blasts kill 48 in Iraq town*
- *Prodi backed in key Afghan vote*
- *Deaths after Gaza sewage flood*
- *Divisive Egypt reforms approved*
- *Burma’s new capital unveiled*
- *Football trafficker cons Ivorians*
- *Pakistan cricketers heading home*
- *Fans’ fury over axed Snoop tour*

CNN (27/03/07):

Main stories:

- **Impatient with Iran – Words of Warning – Britain steps up rhetoric**
 - o Iran continues to hold troops
 - o What does Tony Blair mean when he says diplomacy will enter a new phase
 - o Will allow visits but won't release the sailors
 - o Tehran insists they are being treated humanely (compares situation to how they were treated in 2004 – short clip of Sgt. John Fallon describing situation)
 - o Beckett British Foreign Secretary – Do not see reason why British contact isn't allowed with captives
 - o Diplomats expect more international pressure but not expelling Iranian diplomats from London or even military action
 - o William Hague UK Shadow Foreign Secretary – Believes increased diplomacy is probably release of information proving location of incident. Military action very unlikely in this case (both opposition and current government) – maybe in long run with nuclear programme. Iranians are damaging their own cause in international opinion (CNN Anchorwoman asks when diplomacy will be cast aside to find out where they are?) Attempts made to find out where they are, indefensible not to give consular access and not sending them free (CNN Anchorwoman asks whether it still looks like a misunderstanding) More unlikely that that is the case. Looks more and more like a pre-mediated act. Firm but calm attempts have to continue
- River of Waste – Scenes in Gaza not bad enough – Man made tsunami – One official blaming bad infrastructure – UN has warned of situation in the Gaza territory for two years now. Israel has offered humanitarian assistance but unclear if anything arrived. Palestinian official greeted with gunshots at the scene
- Simon Cowell claims he sold more records than Bruce Springsteen – Interview with Allison Cooper
- Dozens of Iraqi Police fall ill after having dinner at army HQ
- Controversial Egyptian referendum passes – Opposition calls it a sham – Amendments limit religious freedom and make dissolving of parliament easier
- Interview with Richard Howitt Labour member of European Parliament in reference to Turkey's role in bridging gap between West and Islamic world. Europe could use Turkey as a role for greater influence. Wider European interest in the Middle East

The Inbox – Do you think the confrontation between Iran and Britain will end without military action?

On CNN website headlines:

- *Iran: Inquiry first, then access*
- *Hicks pleads guilty at Guantanamo*
- *Car bombs in Iraqi cities kill 50*
- *Three die in Gaza sewage flood*
- *White House: Snow's cancer spreads*
- *Island Christians seek Elton ban*

- *Woman dead in bathtub of sand*
- *Bullets whiz as Taliban ambush pins down TV crew (video)*
- *Panda dies amid cute Knut frenzy*
- *Actor crashes rare \$1.5M Ferrari*
- *Men 'swiped 1,500 women's undies'*
- *Schoolgirls expose drink scandal*

Notes 27/03/07:

- One interesting thing to note in the manner that stories were covered on this day is that BBCWS Arabic made no mention of the 'Gaza sewage flood' while both BBC News 24 and CNN did (in their main stories). The manner in which it was covered by the CNN and the BBC channels also differed slightly with the latter including more detailed coverage on the cause of the sewage flood and who is to blame (sub-heading of the article read "Blame-game" and discussed the issue of Palestinian officials blaming the international sanctions for the disaster and the UN stating that the situation had already been worrisome in 2004 and could not have been greatly worsened by international sanctions). The more detailed coverage of the issue by the BBC make it the more surprising that it failed to include it in the headlines or radio broadcast of the BBCWS Arabic
- I have started noticing that BBCWS Arabic uses the term "Musala7oon" when mentioning the insurgency in Iraq and Somalia. The term actually means "armed individual" – even policemen or villagers arming and defending themselves against an unjustified attack could be referred to as 'musala7oon'
 - o Differs from the term "Irhabi" (terrorist) or al Kawmeh (resistance) – it also doesn't have the negative connotation of going against authority like the term insurgent has
 - o However, in the context of this article (due to the fact that these Musala7oon were involved in the various bombings) the term does however take on a negative tone ÷ the word in itself though does not have a negative definition
- 'CNN The Inbox' question asking whether conflict between Iran and Britain will be resolved militarily
- Another point to mention when looking at the structure and order of the news is that BBCWS Arabic was the only source to mention and discuss the Arab summit commencing in Riyadh. CNN and BBC News 24 did however mention the issue of the Egyptian referendum in their news agendas today (as did BBCWS Arabic).

**** '7' is the symbol used when indicating the soft 'ha' sound in Arabic (like in the one in 7abibi)**

28/03/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- Arab Summit in Riyadh
- Iran announces the possible release of the female soldier will take place today or tomorrow
- BBC Journalist Alan Johnson has been missing for 16 days

Stories covered in-depth:

- 19th Arab Summit takes place in Riyadh
 - o Libya is not attending the conference
 - o Sudanese President discussed Darfur in opening speech
 - o Amr Moussa discusses Arab initiative, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan and the issue of nuclear programmes in his speech to the summit. Calls this time the “ the great unfortunate demise of Arab identity”
- Iran is close to releasing female sailor Faye Tourney
 - o Britain has frozen all economic ties to Iran
 - o Blair states that its time to increase international pressure on Iran for its unacceptable behaviour
 - o Iran: ‘crisis should be solved diplomatically
 - o Britain releases satellite evidence indicating the location of the vessels
- Iraq violence
 - o Unidentifiable armed militants have randomly killed 50 people in Tal Afar
 - o Revenge attack in response to Shiite attack
 - o Eye witnesses claim that the attackers were dressed as policemen
- Congress passes vote for Iraq withdrawal by March 2008
 - o Victory for democrats
 - o Bush being challenged
 - o Senator John McCain critics vote and says that its not acceptable to give up when things are getting better
 - o Final vote at a later date; Bush has the right to veto vote
- Gaza journalist has been missing for 16 days
 - o People who kidnapped him still didn’t come forward

Website:

- *Arab summit commences in Riyadh*
 - o Sudan president launches summit with speech

- King Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz è importance of moving peace process forward – asking for help in creating Palestinian state
 - Arab initiative – most rounded and pleasing to all sides according to King Abdullah
 - Arab summit will also discuss Iran
 - The Arab initiative calls for “insa7aban kamilan” (full withdrawal)
 - Israel rejects few of the clauses – like right of return of refugees to Israel proper
 - Rice – Arabs need to meet Israel half way è had meetings with all sides prior to summit
 - Palestinians and Israelis have set up meeting every two weeks
 - 21 Arab states attending – Libya boycotting – Ban Ki – Moon present at summit
 - Don’t expect breakthrough from the summit – tension between Syria and Saudi
- *Deaths of dozens in attacks in North Western Iraq*
- Sunni area of Tal Afar hit by attack
 - Very tense and close to Syrian border (had Sunni, Shiite and Turkmen)
 - Hospital overflowing with patients
 - Seems to be revenge attacks for bombing of Shiite area
 - These attacks come following a few days of relative calm in Iraq
 - US and Iraqi forces attempting to end violence in their country
 - Bush had called Tal Afar an example of the effectiveness of the American operations a year ago
 - Two cars exploded on Wednesday at a checkpoint in Fallujah
 - § Three mortars landed at American base about 20 minutes later
 - § Three civilians injured in the shoot-out that followed
 - American killed by Mortar or missile in Green zone
 - Another US soldier was killed in Anbar province
 - 19 insurgents arrested suspected of being Al Qaeda members
 - Reuters – Ramadi explosion kills 8
- *Blair freezes economic ties with Iran*
- Beckett states that all channels will be closed between Britain and Iran till Iran releases the 15 captured navy personnel
 - Cut trip short to Turkey as her efforts weren’t working from Turkey
 - Britain revealed images proving, what they say, is that British vessels were in Iraqi waters
 - Iran on the other hand presented two locations, one of them being in Iraqi territorial waters
 - Turkish PM has announced that he would allow Turkish diplomats to meet with the captured sailors
 - Britain willing to turn towards more open diplomatic measures
 - § If talks fail the government will make its next steps and intentions clear
 - Iraqi navy official Jasim is quoted as saying that British do not usually operate in that area and could not confirm that they were in Iraqi waters

BBC News 24 (28/03/07):

Main stories:

- **Captured Navy Crew – Iran FM Mottaki has announced that the female soldier (Faye Turney) will be released soon – Iranian TV station has announced that it will air an interview with the female sailor Faye Turney and release footage– Although the news given at an Arab summit concerning Faye Turney is welcome there are no new developments on the fate of the other 14 sailors.**
 - o BBC political analyst (interview with anchorman)
 - § Competing power centres are trying to determine what to do yet in Tehran
 - § Definition and boundaries of water border not very clear – yet Britain is clear that the British vessels were 1.75 nautical miles into Iraqi waters
 - § The release of Faye Turney might be a signal of pressure building up on Iran to actually indicate that they are willing to negotiate and not take this thing too far.
 - o Britain has released satellite images indicating, they claim, that the vessels were clearly in Iraqi waters – has suspended bilateral contacts with Iran over the diplomatic row
- **Zimbabwe opposition** – Morgan Tsvangirai arrested as he was preparing to hold press conference in Zimbabwe– Interview with chair of UK for democratic change - Ephraim Tapa – Leader being taken around from police station to police station.
- **Super-Casino vote** – Plans for Britain's first super-casino to be sited in Manchester could face defeat when MPs and peers vote later in the House of Commons
- **Da Vinci Code Appeal** – Appeals court clears Da Vinci code author Dan Brown for plagiarism
- **Knives and Guns** – Knives and guns experts have announced that thousands of injuries and deaths could be prevented in the UK if proper training was provided
- **Japan Murder** – Police believe the young British English teacher who had been found dead near Tokyo two days ago had died of suffocation
- **NHS Dentist shortage** – Large parts of the country are dentistry deserts – Dental reforms were meant to change that in 2006 – NHS still does not have enough dentists

On BBC website headlines:

- *Zimbabwe's Tsvangirai 'arrested'*
- *UK reveals Iran dispute evidence*
- *WHO backs male circumcision*
- *Students raid Pakistan 'brothel'*
- *More Gaza sewage floods feared*
- *Dozens riot in Paris rail station*
- *Scores die in Nigeria tanker fire*
- *Manila bus siege children freed*

- *Germany introduces cancer jab*
- ...

CNN (28/03/07):

On CNN website headlines:

- *Iran 'to release UK sailor soon'*
- *Children freed as bus siege ends*
- *Scores dead in police gun spree*
- *Pakistan doubts cricket murder*
- *Zimbabwe opposition leaders held*
- *Writers lose 'Da Vinci Code' flight*
- *Expensive Ferrari goes ker-smack*
- *China and Russia to explore Mars*
- *Kosher blow for Passover pot fans*
- *Escalator ski stunt angers police*
- *Eighty sheep found in man's home*
- ...

Notes 28/03/07:

- In reference to the capture of the 15 British sailors, BBCWS Arabic goes into further detail concerning the claims made by one Iraqi Naval Official (Jasim) who states that he is surprised British vessels were conducting operations in that area and that he is not sure whether they were in Iraqi or Iranian waters.
 - o BBC News 24 didn't mention the comments and the article on the website only briefly mentioned it on 27/03/07 not on the 28/03/07. While on BBCWS Arabic a noticeable amount of writing and detail was included on this issue on both dates
 - o CNN didn't mention the comments at all
- Arab summit is dominating BBCWS Arabic – not mentioned on CNN on BBC News 24 (also BBCWS are the only ones to cover story on missing BBC journalist Alan Johnson who has been missing for 16 days)

29/03/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **Arab summit – First day concludes with Syrian and Saudi relations being in the spotlight of the summit**
- Escalating tension between Iran and UK regarding fate of 15 troops. Tehran raises its claims
- US Senate steps forward and votes for Iraqi withdrawal date

Stories covered in-depth:

- **Arab summit in Riyadh concludes its first day by considering Arab initiative as a solid base:**
 - o US describe Arab initiative as respectful, important step etc., however, implementation more important.
 - o Summit wants region to be free of nuclear weapons
 - o Invites all sides to end crisis in Darfur.
- Explosions in northern Baghdad
 - o 60 killed, in four simultaneous explosions in Khalis City north of Baghdad
 - o More police has been sent to Tel Afar to quell revenge killings which have killed 60 Sunnis in the last few days
- Nancy Pelosi to visit Syria:
 - o Mohsen Bilal, Syrian Minister of Information, will hold talks with the Congresswoman on her visit.
 - o He welcomes Pelosi, supporting her stance on the Iraq war.
- UK calls for a stop of crisis of soldiers:
 - o Asks Security Council to take action by passing a resolution
 - o UK refers to incident as ‘instigating’.
 - o Solana – ‘EU doesn’t accept this action, asks for the immediate release of the 15 sailors’
- Somalia:
 - o Mogadishu sees the collapse of the cease fire as a result of rising attacks

Website:

- ***100s die in explosions in Iraq***
 - o At least a hundred people killed in violence through out Iraq
 - o 60 people died in an explosion in S. Baghdad
 - o Police release suspects in Tal Afar revenge killings

- Tal Afar:
 - § 70 killed in revenge attacks
 - § People being dragged into streets and executed in Sunni neighbourhood
 - § Follows truck bomb that had been disguised as humanitarian aid
 - § Sunni majority accusing police of siding with Shiite
 - § Following the explosion there were demonstrations calling for the resignation of the Police Chief and Mayor of Tal Afar
- American Press release – some Iraqi soldiers are having breathing complications following a truck bombing filled with chlorine

- Arab summit concludes in Riyadh
 - Based on Arab initiative (land for peace)
 - Amr Mousa (head of the Arab League) called it the only just solution
 - BBC Correspondent in Riyadh said that Arab leaders were not expecting a breakthrough and won't accept changes
 - Shimon Peres (Head of Labour Party in Israel):
 - § There should be no pre-conditions for peace
 - § Shouldn't work based on assumptions – all sides should be involved
 - Arab leaders also called for a nuclear free Middle East – however, reaffirming their right to a peaceful nuclear programme
 - Arab FM point to Lebanon and Iraq to highlight the problems of religious and racial problems – warning that it could spread
 - Israel has rejected the return of refugees to Israel as part of the agreement

- *Violent battles rage in Somalia*
 - Battles rage between insurgents and Somali government forces (supported by Ethiopian troops)
 - Failure of the 'hudna' or ceasefire which had been agreed upon last Friday
 - Bodies were being dragged through the streets
 - Witnesses claim to see hundreds of armed people roaming the streets
 - Mohammad Mahmoud Hussein (Somali Government Spokesperson) stated that operations were meant to last three days to restore order to Somalia
 - Violence started when Ethiopian forces attacked insurgents – insurgents counter-attacked with tanks
 - Ethiopians deny the existence of a hudna and claiming there are just fighting remnants of the Islamic court which had taken control of the country
 - Ethiopia stopped withdrawing its troops from Somalia in wake of these battles
 - Arab Union has 1,700 soldiers (mainly from Uganda) stationed in Somalia and wanted to increase the number to 8000

BBC News 24 (29/03/07):

Main stories:

- **Captured Navy Personnel:**
 - o UNSC issues statement expressing 'grave concern' over the fate of 15 sailor captured by Iran last Friday.
 - o Motion follows release of another letter from Royal Marine Faye Tourney by Iran – to House of Commons (odd aspects such ' I am a British military personal being held in Iran', letter gets political asking questions about Iraq and British involvement in that country) **è** letter at odds with the person the reporter had met in interviews a week before she was captured (clip of her in interview)
 - o Images of hardliners demonstrating in Tehran demanding tougher line on what to do with sailors
 - o Language not as strong as Britain had hoped – Russia and some other council members softened it ('deplore' removed and replaced by 'grave concern', immediate release **à** Russia said it wasn't helpful just replaced by 'release', also exact territorial location of vessels removed as some countries opposed to just accepting it was in Iraqi waters)
 - o Britain said it was satisfied; US said it was furious that it took more than four hours to come up with a few lines of texts
 - o Iran has gone back from earlier reports that it will release Faye Tourney due to "British biased stance"
 - o Iran states that the involvement of third parties is not welcome and won't make negotiations easier
 - o Turned into political issue
- **Mbeki asked to mediate crisis in Zimbabwe:** 14 S. African countries have asked South African president Mbeki to negotiate in political and economic problems in Zimbabwe. Mugabe didn't seem to be worried about talks with other leaders – Western leaders had hoped for condemnation of recent developments in Zimbabwe. Reports indicate that tone was tougher behind closed doors
- **Suicide Bombers kill 100s in Iraq:**
 - o Khalis city hit by coordinated attacks
 - o US Senate defied its president and voted on a plan to withdraw all American troops by March next year – President Bush has sworn to veto that vote
 - o New Ambassador – Inaugurated in Baghdad
 - o Coalition 'maintains' violence has dropped in Baghdad – attacks continue around Baghdad – Images of Tal Afar (Gunmen went on a rampage in a Sunni neighbourhood) - "...not just politics at home could determine fate of country."
- **Middleton Complaint** – The girlfriend of Prince Charles has complained about a photograph in the Daily Mirror to the Press Complaints Commission
- **ITV wins FA Cup Rights** - ITV and 'Saturna Sport' have won the rights to all FA games taking it away from the BBC and Sky
- **Legionnaires' Death** – Royal Bath Hospital - Fined 80,000 pounds – Victim caught Legionnaires disease from shower head while recovering from leukaemia
- **Somalia Violence** – Week-long cease fire ends after forces attack insurgents HQ near Mogadishu

On BBC website headlines:

- *UN voices 'concern' on UK sailors*
- *Senate backs Iraq withdrawal date*
- *Ankara restores Armenian church*
- *Gates urges closure of Guantanamo*
- *Italy bishops face gay rights row*
- *Mbeki to tackle Zimbabwe crisis*
- *Pakistan 'brothel woman' released*
- *Saudi calls for BBC man's release*
- *Maradona 'sedated' in hospital*

CNN (29/03/07):

Main stories:

- **Iran sent note to British embassy on detained troops**
 - o UNSC expressed 'grave concern'
 - o Special report from Plymouth (home to many of the detained sailors) to gather the general mood in that port town – people are angry “disgusting”, “outraged”, “always part of the community, close knit community” – families aren't speaking publicly
- Attacks in Baghdad, Khalis city kill at least 119 - violence hit Sunni and Shiite areas across Iraq
 - o U.S. Senate ups the pressure on President Bush by passing a vote that sets withdrawal date from Iraq as March of next year – President Bush has vowed to use his presidential powers and veto the proposal
- Arab leaders revive land-for-peace proposal – Israel reacts with interest. Arab states want Israel to start direct negotiations on the initiative. Israel had rejected the plan in 2002
- China news agency says 26 killed in coal mine blast
- Woolmer death probe still analyzing hotel tapes
- Burma (Myanmar) unveils new capital – Report from Naypyidaw, Burma

The Inbox: Do you think any captives should be shown on television?

On CNN website headlines:

- *Security Council: 'grave concern'*
- *Hicks faces much less than 20 yrs*
- *Bombs kill more than 100 in Iraq*
- *African leaders side with Mugabe*
- *Police probe reviews Woolmer video*
- *Boat capsizes off Guinea*
- *Castro resumes anti-U.S. tirades*
- *'Dud grenades' used in bus seizure*
- *Tiny house stands amid construction site*
- *Maradona tries to leave hospital*
- *Versace daughter battling anorexia*

- *Prince's suitor objects to press*
- ...

Notes 29/03/07

- Arab summit dominated the headlines again for BBCWS Arabic - still not mentioned on the other news channels
- Iran/UK crisis dominates stories on BBC News 24 and CNN while BBCWS only mentioned it once in the radio broadcast (not as updated on the issue as the other two are e.g. UNSC resolution wasn't mentioned on BBCWS Arabic although I checked that after I had checked the other sources)

30/03/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **EU Demands immediate and unconditional release of British sailors captured by Iran and Britain says it won't apologize**
- Ethiopian helicopter downed in Mogadishu
- Ban Ki-Moon in Beirut says he is impressed by the efforts exerted by Biri to restore order in Beirut
- In an interview with the BBC Arab Secretary General Amr Mousa stated that:
 - o Arab initiative is not open for modification
 - o There are reports that exist which indicate that proof exists that the elections in Egypt were fraudulent

Stories covered in-depth:

- **EU demands release of captured navy personnel**
 - o Demands the release of the 15 British sailors which have been held for a week
 - o Iran shouldn't have the option of not releasing them
 - o Blair – Airing of new videos means further isolation for Iran
 - o Ahmadinajad – Rights of Iran, as seen in international law, were violated by Britain – an accusation Britain rejects
 - o Iran TV airs confession of a second British sailor in which he apologizes for his countries actions (clip of apology)
 - o UK says that the videos are an abuse
- Red Cross concerned about fighting in Mogadishu
 - o Red Cross says fighting worst since 1990s
 - o 229 wounded in hospitals throughout the capital
 - o Ethiopian helicopter downed by rocket or missile in Mogadishu
 - o First Ethiopian military aircraft downed since start of fighting
- Iraq
 - o Shiite cleric Muqtadar Al Sadr has called for demonstrations against the occupation on April 9th
 - o Demonstration is to mark the four year anniversary of the fall of Baghdad
- Ban Ki-Moon in Beirut:
 - o States it's a moment of truth for Lebanon
 - o Encourages work between Biri and Harir and encourages other leaders to engage in the same
 - o The only way towards stability for Lebanon are negotiations according to Ki-Moon

- Israeli/Palestinian Conflict:
 - o Israeli Arabs mark Land day
 - o Day marks the day when the Israeli government in 1976 decided to nationalize the property of Israeli Arabs in the Galilee for national development
 - o 6 Israeli-Arabs died in clashes that followed
 - o Ceremonies were also held in the West-Bank and Gaza

Website:

- ***Tehran – ‘Another British soldier apologizes for entering Iranian waters’***
 - o Apology directed towards Iranian people
 - o Iran announced the broadcast following the UNSC resolution which calls for a swift release of the 15 British sailors
 - o Third letter from female sailor, Faye Tourney, was also broadcast on Iranian television – in it she claims that they have been sacrificed by the UK,US
 - o Iran wants formal apology from Britain
 - o Ahmadinejad and Turkish PM Urdugan hold phone conversation on issue
 - § Discussed issues of consular visits the UNSC had addressed
 - o Germany – EU FM have announced they stand by Britain
 - o Solana calls for the immediate release of the 15 – states its difficult to boycott Iran especially as they are attempting to resolve this diplomatically
 - o UNSC – language of resolution had been softened by Russia
 - o Memo of the resolution had been sent to the British embassy in Iran
 - o Iran has said that pressure and sanctions aren’t helpful as negotiations are the only way forward
 - o Iran threatened to place them on trial and also threatened to delay the release of female captive Faye Tourney
 - o UK released images it say prove the vessels were in Iraqi waters at the time of the incident
- ***Olmert – ‘Revolutionary change in Arab perspective towards Israel’***
 - o Israeli PM Ehud Olmert said that the peace deal between the two sides could be finalized within five years
 - o US response to the Arab summit in Riyadh has been very positive
 - o Olmert – ‘It’s a good step which shows that Arabs are now willing to take the diplomatic path’
 - o Israeli government acknowledges that most Arab nations know that peace is the only way forward and also seek peace
 - o Olmert – ‘Abbass can’t commit to the promises he makes’
 - o Yaser Abed Rabo – PLO Security Negotiator – What Arabs are doing is not revolutionary – nothing new from before. Olmert on the other hand is only talking to Abbass to please the US, it’s all for appearance
 - o Abed Rabo – Olmert chose to be a political thinker rather than activist
 - § All Arabs get from them is negative or half-negative comments

§ Only words from Israel till now – they have to show that they want to cooperate, withdraw and negotiate so that they can be taken seriously

- Olmert didn't mention Syria in his speech – Israeli government clarified that this is not an indication that Israel doesn't want to negotiate with Syria. Israel does want to clarify problems with Syria/Lebanon
 - Israel needs to know if Syria is supporting peace or terrorism
 - Article goes over Arab initiative (referring to UN resolution 149 on right of return)
 - Olmert – Israel won't budge on right of return – won't kid themselves and think that its possible to return to 1967 and accept all the refugees back
 - Those of 1948 should return to West Bank
- *Red Cross: Worst killings in 15 years in Mogadishu*
- Worst fighting since 15 years and Red Cross is very concerned with the situation in Somalia
 - Hospitals have been overflowing with wounded and dead
 - Ethiopian helicopter shot down over Mogadishu
 - 38 dead in last 24 hours
 - AP: Explosion and fire on helicopter before it crashed near Ugandan airbase – no one survived the crash. It is suspected the helicopter was hit by missile
 - Somali PM: Fighting will continue till Mogadishu security has been restored
 - Hudna failed because Ethiopian troops opened fire on insurgent strongholds
 - BBC Correspondent says Somali President in Riyadh said they were insurgents who were linked to international terrorism
 - Ethiopian troops had been withdrawing before fighting broke out again
 - Summit on countries stability meant to take place next month in Mogadishu – PM invited all those who respect the constitution and want to actively work towards re-building Somalia

***** Under the main featured article of the day the option existed to watch a clip of the news story in Arabic. I am presuming that these are initial broadcasts of the BBC Arabic TV channel which they are planning on launching.**

It seems that on the 28/03/07 the BBC introduced the option to watch small clips of the news in the format of a news story as on BBC News 24. I will start watching selected ones and include them into my media diaries from now on.

News clips:

- Another UK soldier apologizes for entering Iranian water:
 - Clip of the Iranian news report with Arabic voice over (introduction of video is Iranian report with Arabic translation)

- Shows apology of second sailor Nathan Summers on Iranian television, also shows Iranian military official explaining that they had devices and sailors statements which prove that they were in Iranian waters
- 100s killed in explosions in Iraq
 - Report of the suicide bombings that have struck various locations in Iraq over the last two days – “deaths from violence the Iraqis are facing day and night”
 - Recounts the death toll and manner in which these explosions happen – South Baghdad - very graphic images – “it becomes obvious that those responsible are attempting to inflict the highest death toll possible”
 - Follows a day of violence in Tel Afar – recounts the events of that day. Ends the report with – “Iraqis are witnessing unprecedented amounts and are left to watch and wonder who is going to help them get rid of it”

BBC News 24 (30/03/07):

Main stories:

- **Captured Navy Crew:**
 - EU demands immediate and unconditional release of 15 captured navy marines
 - Iranian TV airs video of second sailor, Nathan Summers, who apparently apologizes for ‘illegally entering Iranian waters’ ⇒ Tony Blair and government reacted angrily – enhances people’s sense of disgust towards how they are being treated, doesn’t fool anyone, Iran will face increasing
 - Iran has released another hand written letter by Faye Tourney addressed towards the British people where she is claimed to be stating that they have fallen victim to the policy of the UK and US. Letter is filled with grammatical and spelling mistakes
 - 6 of the 15 captured sailors have been named
 - Iranian’s have sent a letter demanding that Britain gives an assurance that this sort of incident won’t happen again ⇒ doesn’t demand apology
 - Special Report looks at Britain’s strategy in this incident ⇒ change from a more passive approach to a more heated diplomatic effort. In EU there is some opposition to trade squeeze Britain had suggested and Russia opposed stronger language in UNSC. Conflicting signals from a divided Iranian government. First claiming to release Faye Tourney and then backtracking. Also that the Iranians aren’t calling for an apology.
 - Interview with Iran expert in Washington – Iran in difficult position – doesn’t want isolation but also doesn’t want to seem weak in face of world (He claims that is the reason – news anchor asks whether it is the divided government or difficult situation) – Agrees that Iran has pronounced varying levels of power in Iran ⇒ discusses the Revolutionary Guard. Believes the sailors are going to be released

unharmful, fairly soon. Iran is not Al Qaeda and not a pariah state but we need a resolution – they need to both regret this incident and work towards cooperation

- **Hicks Trial** - American military tribunal at Guantanamo Bay has been informed that the maximum sentence for Australian born Hicks will be 7 years. Hicks pleaded guilty of charges of aiding terrorists on Monday.
- **Athens Volleyball Death** – All sports have been suspended in Athens for two weeks following the stabbing to death of a volleyball fan
- **Network Rail Fine** – Network rail has been fined for their role in the mistakes which led to the deadly Paddington train crash in 1999
- **TK Maxx online fraud** - Thousands of card details have been stolen through an online fraud involving the websites of TK Maxx. 45 million transactions had been accessed.
- **Zimbabwe** - Robert Mugabe tightens his grip on Zimbabwe's politics as his party endorses him as their official candidate for the coming election. Some party members had suggested for him to step down and the opposition calls it a sad day for the democratic development in Zimbabwe
- **Daily Mirror apology** – The Daily Mirror has apologized to Kate Middleton for publishing pictures and article

On BBC website headlines:

- *Mugabe party backs election bid*
- *Iran airs second sailor 'apology'*
- *Brawl halts team sports in Greece*
- *Guantanamo plea deal for Hicks*
- *Chile riots lead to 800 arrests*
- *Helicopter shot down in Somalia*
- *'Dozens die' in Pakistan fighting*
- *Proposal for porn domain rejected*
- *US consumer confidence slips*
- ...

CNN (30/03/07):

Main stories:

- **Britain – 'No One is fooled by Iran's parading of Marines'**
 - o Iran releases another video of second sailor confessing to entering Iranian waters
 - o Third letter from female sailor Fay Tourney revealed by Iran – letter says she has been sacrificed by UK, US neighbourhoods
- Iraqi air strike
 - o US air strike kills at least 16 people in Baghdad; coalition forces are checking reports of the attack

- Two attacks on Thursday killed at least 124 on Thursday (at least 81 killed in Shiite neighbourhood of Baghdad, Car bombs in mainly Shiite city of Khalis)
- Chaos in Somalia:
 - Witnesses say the worst fighting since 15 years in Somalia.
 - Dozens of dead since Thursday
 - Interview with Predram Yazdi – International Comm. of Red Cross – Hospitals have received two hundred wounded & contacts with all aspects of society (have been established in Somalia since 1977) – Supplying more than 500,000 people in Somalia a year – cooperation with the Somali Red Crescent is good
 - Fighting likely to last until stockpiles run dry
- Zimbabwe
 - Leaders of largest Labour Union are calling for strike –
 - Seems Robert Mugabe is going to run again for presidency
 - 4 out of 5 Zimbabwean's are not unemployed
- Australian detainee at 'Gitmo' convicted
 - Doesn't come as a surprise as Hicks had pleaded guilty to the charges on Monday
 - Will serve any sentence he faces in Australia
- Highway to Heaven
 - Testimony of a French Nun could place late Pope John Paul II on the fast-track path to Sainthood
- Young Iraqi Woman favoured to win 'Lebanese Idol' show
 - 26 year old singer stand a good chance of winning
 - Her story shares headlines of daily bombing in Iraq

Special Coverage of the Democratic Republic of Congo – World Untold Stories – Most devastating and blood thirsty war in African history & All about control of Congo's vast mineral wealth (Blood Diamond Style documentary)

On CNN website headlines:

- *Detainee 'sacrificed by UK, US'*
- *Sadr urges fall of Baghdad protest*
- *Helicopter shot down in Mogadishu*
- *Nun: Pope cured my Parkinson's disease*
- *Putin rejects call to serve longer*
- *Greece halts sports after fan dies*
- *Teens film rape of girl on phone*
- *Porn '.xxx' address rejected*
- *Runaway bride inspires job advert*
- *Hell's Angels 50th bash tests cops*
- *Spears, Federline divorce 'deal'*
- *Hilton faces jail in driving case*
- *Miss America Pageant dumped again*
- *Lamborghini akin to a 'wild boar'*
- *Chocolate Jesus stirs bitter row*
- ...
-

Notes 30/03/07

- BBCWS videos are an interesting addition to the available sources of news already provided by the Arabic service
 - o Reporting in these videos takes a far more personal and emotional approach to reporting – especially evident in the Iraq video and the comments made on that one – very graphic images were also used
 - o The quality of these videos is still not optimal – on the Iraq video the voice of the narrator was initially drowned out by the background noise
- BBCWS again featured stories that relate more to the Arab world and that subsequently weren't discussed on the other channels (Israeli Arabs marking Land Day, Olmert's reaction to the summit and its developments) ⇒ On a personal note I would like to comment that having been listening to BBCWS Arabic for two weeks now, the service really does provide the feeling of being connected to back home. Also the extensive coverage of the international efforts to finding a solution to the Arab/Israeli conflict gives a more optimistic feeling towards the situation that one wouldn't get from watching the other channels (as the story isn't even covered)

31/03/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **Third day of killing in Mogadishu leaves at least 15 dead**
- UK reiterates need for a peaceful solution – Ahmadinajad says they breached international law when entering Iranian waters
- Minister of Justice resigns in Iraq
- 100s killed in fighting between insurgents and army in eastern province of Pakistan
- Sydney – Some areas of Sydney will have their electricity turned off for an hour to raise the importance of doing something against global warming
- Shada Hassoun wins Star Academy

Stories covered in-depth:

- **Read Cross states grave concern as fighting enters third day in Mogadishu**
 - o Hospitals overwhelmed with wounded
 - o Witness who has lost his family and saw his house burn down report from a hospital in Mogadishu
 - o UNRWA has stated that at least 12,000 people have fled the fighting
- Iraqi Minister of Justice Hashim Al Shibhi resigns
 - o Accusations that there is political tension and contradictions between Shibhi and the government
 - o BBC Correspondent Alia Jasim reports from Baghdad
 - § Certain differences have arisen between Ministry of Justice and Iraqi government
 - § Wanted to change certain aspects to the ministry since he took position
- Ahmadinajad asks UK for apology for breaching Iranian waters and breaking international law
 - o Ahmadinajad states that involving EU and UNSC not a helpful move
 - o UK responds by stating that his comments do not help the situation
 - o Becket – UK wants a quick and peaceful solution to the issue
- U.S. President George W. Bush criticizes Congress for vote on withdrawal
 - o Vote calls for withdrawal by 03/08
 - o This follows vote by senate to withdraw by 09/03
 - o Bush – Either date won't help Iraq and will bring the war on terrorism to a stop
 - o Jeopardises the position of the Commander in Chief as any date undermines his actions

- Ukraine: 1000s demonstrate against government
 - o Kiev saw massive street demonstrations by camps of the president and the PM
 - o They are ignoring government imposed restrictions on demonstrations
 - o Clip from street demonstrations in Ukraine
 - o The west backs president while the PM is close to the people (and backed by Russia)
 - o Demonstrators calling for the dissolving of the government and new elections

Website:

- ***Tehran – ‘Sailors could be charged for breaking international law’***
 - o If there is enough proof the sailors might be charged
 - o Iran TV stations reports these developments
 - o Beckett – Response to third hand written letter are further negotiations
 - § New Year in Iran didn’t help difficult situation of negotiations
 - o Although U.S. is supporting the UK they have signalled that they are not willing to trade the 15 sailors for 5 Iranians held in Iraq since their capture in Irbil last year.
 - § Iran claims they are diplomats
 - o Solana states that a clear message has been issued to Iran. Emphasis the need to obey rules
 - § It should be clear that its not just Iran and Britain in the negotiations but Iran with the 27 member states of the EU
 - o Russia toned down language in UNSC and stated that situation needed study of both positions
 - o Another of the British soldiers had apologized on Iranian TV for entering Iranian waters
 - o Blair has responded to third letter and aired apology by saying that Iran is just increasing feeling of disgust and isolating itself more è top priority for the UK is bringing the incident to an end
- ***Killed and injured in violent Battles in Mogadishu***
 - o Third day of fighting in Somali capital
 - o Helicopters attacked insurgent and militia positions
 - o Red Cross has reported more than 15 killed
 - o Ethiopia claims to have killed up to 200 Islamic insurgents which it calls remnants of the former regime
 - o Reuters: Fighting broke out in the early hours of Saturday
 - o Witness describes situation to Reuters
 - o Hospitals having difficult time coping with large number of casualties
 - o 1000s have fled fighting, the later ones to flee fled on foot
 - o Insurgents shot down helicopter on Thursday – Recap of incident (as on 30/3/07 copy/pasted section)
 - o Ethiopians moving forward with tanks and helicopters against Islamists and insurgents
 - o Sheikhs of the biggest faction in the country Hawie had negotiated a hudna last week – Ethiopia denies the existence of the ceasefire
 - o Recap of general situation as on 30/3/07 (copy/paste section)

- *At least 10 dead in explosions in Iraq*
 - Five killed in explosion in Al Sadr district of Iraq
 - In Hilla four died when a truck exploded next to fuel station
 - Tuzkhurmatu in Salahedeen district witnessed an explosion which killed 3 and wounded 11
 - AP: Policeman said that the attacker had hoped for more workers to surround his truck but the explosives set off early
 - Tal Afar – Officials are attempting to determine the exact death toll of last weeks suicide bombings
 - § Iraqi officials have placed the death toll at 152 (while the coalition had placed it at 89) making it one of the highest since the American invasion (*Al Ghazweh Amriki*)
 - § Two tonnes of explosives had been used and it left a huge crater
 - § Coalition states that the deaths had been exaggerated and are lower (people under rubble, missing, confusion ,various people looking for the same person)
 - § Officials at the scene said they are still removing rubble and are confused why there is confusion surrounding the death toll
 - § On the other hand coalition officials had placed the deaths of revenge attacks at 70 while medical official from Tal Afar says 47 had been killed

News clips:

- Killings in Mogadishu:
 - Video of helicopter being downed in Mogadishu – Narrator explains how insurgents had shot it down and that it crashed near Ugandan base
 - Helicopter had been involved in Ethiopian operations against Islamic militants
 - Killings continued in the streets and witnessed are reporting dozens of dead
 - 10,000 had fled the capital last week to escape fighting – had been enabled by relative calm that had existed last week (images of civilians fleeing fighting)
 - These battles follow the expulsion of the Islamic government by the Ethiopian forces last month

BBC News 24 (31/03/07):

Main stories:

- **Captured Navy Crew:**
 - Iran's president Ahmadinajad says Britain not following legal or logical approach to resolving the issue – instead of apologizing they make it seem like we are in their debt
 - § 15 did trespass
 - § Britain arrogant and selfish
 - Britain strikes diplomatic note and calls for a peaceful end to the crisis

- Discussion between Iranian official and British official on issue – very heated debate (anchorman sides with British official on various occasions)
- Short documentary clip on what has occurred and looking at the various aspects – government might be keeping a quite profile intentionally
- Remarks in last half hour by Ahmadinajad seem to have been intentionally designed to destroy the calm that people got on how things were developing (BBC Political analyst)
- Analysis of the e-mails going through to BBC on story. Main themes they could identify were:
 - § Either asking for attacking Iran or threatening with war
 - § Or critical of British government – saying Blair should just apologize
 - § Some in Iran are critical of their own government
 - § Israel went to war for two soldiers – so should Britain (UK should just go to Iran and get its soldiers back)
 - § US comments tend to be more bullish
- **Pensions warning:** Tax reform made by Gordon Brown in ‘90s could leave 75 billion gap in pension funds – Conservatives demanding independent inquiry
- **Woolmer inquiry** - Scotland yard to send team of investigators to Jamaica to help with the investigation surrounding the death of former Pakistani Cricket coach Woolmer
- **Darkness down under** – Sydney turns the lights off in certain districts to highlight the importance of changing our attitudes towards fighting climate change (project known as Earth hour)
- **Chocolate Jesus exhibition cancelled** - Exhibition had been criticized for its provocative nature – Exhibition won’t open in New York anymore
- **Special report on French election** – Public still relatively undecided in who to vote for in coming elections

On BBC website headlines:

- *Peaceful end urged in Iran crisis*
- *Ukraine rivals rally in capital*
- *Palestinian boycott over BBC man*
- *Sydney in climate change blackout*
- *Landmark Nepal cabinet delayed*
- *Peru ‘must protect Amazon tribes’*
- *Hicks to serve nine months in jail*
- *Somali violence ‘worst in years’*
- *UK police to help Woolmer inquiry*
- *Brazil flights crippled by strikes*
- ...

CNN (31/03/07):

On CNN website headlines:

- ***Britain, Iran ‘discussing sailors’***
- *Iraq blast targets hospital visitors*
- *Hicks to serve nine months in jail*
- *Bloody battle rages in Somali capital*
- *Google accused of airbrushing history*
- *White House slams speaker’s trip*
- *Sydney in climate change blackout*
- *Thorpe ‘shocked’ by doping claims*
- *Naked chocolate Jesus exhibit cancelled*
- *British police aid Woolmer inquiry*
- *Iraqi wins TV talent contest, sparks euphoria*
- ...

Notes 31/03/07

- Similar structure and order of news agenda between BBCWS, BBC News 24 and CNN – only difference is that BBCWS is the only service to report on the resignation of Iraq’s Minister of Justice (and does so quite extensively in its Radio broadcast)
- The BBC English website (international) covered the planned boycott Palestinians journalists are organizing in Gaza to put pressure on the PA to assist in releasing BBC Journalist Alan Johnson è story not covered on BBCWS
- Again BBCWS Arabic referred to the 2003 invasion as the American invasion (not American led, or simply 2003 invasion as is usually the case on the other news channels/sources)

01/04/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **Olmert calls for regional peace conference with Saudi Arabia and other moderate states**
- Ceasefire to take effect in Somalia within 24 hours – this follows the death of Ugandan peacekeepers
- London assures of contacts with Iran regarding sailors release
- New labour law passed in the United Arab Emirates

Stories covered in-depth:

- **Olmert invites Arabs to set up regional peace conference**
 - o Comments come during visit of German PM who stated that it was worth meeting and that the whole issue should be seen as a celebratory event
 - o Merkel also met with Palestinian president Abbas – at the meeting she highlighted the importance of the Palestinian unity government and it's need to renounce violence
- Pelosi to send message to Syria
 - o Following a meeting with Israeli PM Olmert, Pelosi is set to send a message to Syria indicating that Israel is ready to talk peace if Syria does not support terrorism and violence and commits to peace
 - o Pelosi agrees with the stance taken by Israel and will bring the message to the Syrian people
- UK says it is communicating with Iran
 - o Secretary of Defense Browne claimed that Britain is intent on using diplomacy in resolving the issue
 - o Iranian FM spokesperson (Mohammad Ali Hussein) has been quoted as saying that the crisis could be solved diplomatically but Britain is ruining those chances by involving international community
- Bush has announced his intention to veto any vote which would dictate an Iraq withdrawal date
 - o Bush calls the withdrawal a grave mistake
 - o Congress had decided to withdraw the US troops by 03/08

Website:

- ***Olmert calls for regional peace conference***
 - o Israeli PM Olmert has invited King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to discuss peace prospects

- The proposal came during a visit by German Chancellor Angela Merkel
 - Olmert stated that he hoped that all regional powers got involved in the process – referred to King Abdullah as a wise and important leader
 - Israel doesn't intend to lay down its position but without saying its not the same as the 2002 peace proposal
 - These comments follow the Riyadh summit which had discussed the 2002 proposal
 - Olmert – 'Arab moderates led by Saudi want to play an effective role in bringing peace to the region', and that 'I guess, the idea of Arabs accepting Israel and offering to negotiate towards peace is an offer I cannot reject'
- *Iraqi government reports indicates an increase in civilian deaths*
- 13% increase from last month
 - Comes in the light of the on-going operation (surge) being conducted by US and coalition
 - BBC Correspondent in Iraq said the insurgents seem to be shifting their attention from Baghdad to other areas as the coalition was concentrating on restoring security in the capital
 - Coalition claims the violence has decreased by 25% in Baghdad
 - Iraqi official Talibani is quoted as saying that the Mahdi army has listened to their leader Muqtader Al Sadr and stopped resisting against coalition efforts on Saturday
 - § A positive step which indicates people are joining effort
 - Washington, however, states a few days ago that Mahdi army is the biggest threat to Iraq
 - The new US Ambassador to Iraq has stated that President Bush is supporting the government and the people – feedback seems to be indicating positive effects of surge
 - Iraqi official was quoted as saying that last weeks bombing were the most violent and deadliest since 2003
 - Article re-caps the various deaths and explosions that had occurred during the week (more than 500 people killed during the week, at least 400 Shiites, Tal Afar saw most deadly explosion since 2003)
 - Iraqi president Maliki is calling on all Iraqis to come forward and actively help re-build their country, to also restrain themselves and not let the evil people committing the killings affect them
- *Iranian students demonstrate in front of British embassy*
- 200 students demonstrate in front of British embassy throwing stones and missiles at building
 - Police blocked students from entering
 - BBC Correspondent Francis Harrison in Tehran says students are extremist who are asking the government not to give in to international pressure
 - § Confirms that the police were there to keep the demonstrators out
 - § New Year coming to an end – expect more demonstrations

- § Demonstrators were asking to expel diplomat and persecute spies
- These demonstrations comes following a diplomatic row between two countries that has involved the UNSC, US and the EU
- Students threw fire crackers at building while earlier reports had indicated that fuel bombs were being thrown
- Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in London said that no one has injured and that the building had not been damaged

News clips:

- Iranian demonstrations against the United Kingdom
 - More than 200 demonstrators in front of UK embassy in Tehran
 - Chanting anti-British slogans as well as anti UN and Israeli slogans (video of demonstration)
 - Building had been pelted with stones and firecrackers
 - Police had been blocking entrance to the embassy (images of riot police pushing demonstrators away)
 - British Foreign Office has stated that no one was injured and no damage inflicted on building

BBC News 24 (01/04/07):

Main stories:

- **Captured Navy Crew**
 - Protests in Tehran as negotiations continue
 - Defence secretary Browne says government is in direct contact with Iran to ensure release
 - Clip of demonstrations around British embassies – Building pelted with rocks and firecrackers – Want Iran to sever ties with Britain – chant death to Britain
 - § Ahmadinjad still claims the vessels were in Iranian waters
 - § Not all agree with the position taken – (interview with Iranian journalist)
 - § Statement made by US President Bush added to the heightened situation concerning the release of the soldiers by issuing a statement with very strong language
 - § Statement by Bush is at odds with the US's unwillingness to outright demand the return of the sailors
 - § Narrator asks the question why the HMS Cornwall did not see the heavily armed Iranian control boats approaching the vessels the 15 were on. Was the operation a carefully planned move of Iran?
 - Interview with Frances Harrison Tehran Correspondents
 - § Those inside the embassy were not in danger – obviously feelings were running high. Missiles were thrown at the embassy – very strong slogans (from asking for cutting diplomatic ties to the execution of the sailors)
 - **Breaking News** – Iranian TV has announced to air further confessions

- § Interview with Sadeq Saba Iranian Affairs analyst – Not surprising that more confessions are coming; Iran feels the need to validate its claims.
- § These confessions might help resolve the situation as Iran might accept the apology as being enough
- § Demonstration shouldn't be taken too seriously – for the size of the country 200 isn't a big number but the fact of the matter is they speak for a minority of hardliners present in Iran
- **Guantanamo detainee released** – British resident, Nisha Al Rawi, (Iraqi national) who had been a Guantanamo prisoner for five years has been released and arrives back home in the UK.
 - Had always denied involvement with Al Qaeda, said his nightmare has come to an end, feels sorry for the other 9 other British residents
 - Neighbours have welcomed his release – family doesn't expect his return for a few days as he needs time to get used to normal life again
- **Iraq death** - British soldier killed while on patrol in Basra
 - Had come on small arms fire
- **Japan Killer** – UK Ambassador to Japan has called on the general public to help catch the criminal who committed the crime against British resident
- **Prescription charges** - Wales scraps prescription charges as prices go up in the rest of the United Kingdom - English prescription prices have gone up
- **25 years on** – Britain offers a concession to the relatives of Argentines who had been killed during the Falklands war
- **Germany** – Germans are embarrassed with the connection Hitler had with the German town which will be hosting G8 summit (Heiligendamm)
- **Memorial Service** – Memorial service held in Lahore

On BBC website headlines:

- ***Protest at UK embassy in Tehran***
- *Breaking News - Olmert peace talks offer to Arabs*
- *UK 'regret' over Falklands dead*
- *Iraqi civilian deaths up in March*
- *Nepal swears Maoists into cabinet*
- *Children killed in Afghan attack*
- *Pakistan holds Woolmer memorial*
- *Fighting rages in Somali capital*
- *Indonesia crash pilots 'argued'*

CNN (01/04/07):

Website:

- ***Protest at UK embassy in Iran***
- *Olmert to Arabs: Let's talk peace*
- *Climate report maps 'extinction'*
- *Former rebels join Nepal government*
- *Tens of thousands rally in Kiev*
- *Senator lauds Iraq security*
- *Hopes rise for truce in Somalia*

- *Google accused of airbrushing history*
- *Pope's sends message to young*
- *Ethanol tops US-Brazil talks*
- *Thorpe confident he'll be cleared*
- ...

Notes 01/04/07

- CNN is the only news source not to report (on its website) of the increase in deaths in Iraq during the month of March – both BBC News 24 and BBCWS covered the story.

- o Rather CNN carried a far more positive article on Iraq which carried quotes such as :

"The American people are not getting the full picture of what's happening here. They are not getting the full picture of the drop in murders, the establishment of security outposts throughout the city, the situation in Anbar, the deployment of additional Iraqi brigades who are performing well and other signs of progress," he said (referring to Senator McCain who was visiting Iraq).

- o Even between the BBC international website and BBCWS website a different approach is taken when reporting the issue è BBCWS counters the claims made by coalition forces of dropping violence with claims by Iraqi officials which seem to contradict and even nullify those comments e.g. that last week was the deadliest week for Iraqi Civilians
- Interesting that all news sources reported on the developments in the Arab/Israeli peace process brought forth by the suggestions by Israeli PM Ehud Olmert to hold a regional peace conference (hasn't been the case that CNN and BBC News 24 included the developments on that front in their news agendas)
- Apart from the demonstrations outside the UK embassy in Tehran (and the short video), the BBCWS Arabic did not pay much attention to the developments regarding the diplomatic stand-off (it dominated the headlines on CNN and BBC 24)

02/04/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **German PM Merkel lands in Beirut to start rounds of negotiations in Beirut – Follows trip to Damascus**
- Iranian Chief negotiator announces need to peacefully resolve issue of 15 captured sailors without putting them on trial
- UN refugee agency reports that thousands have fled violence and bloodshed in the Somali capital Mogadishu
- Demonstrations in Gaza, Ramallah and London demand the release of Alan Johnson who was kidnapped in Gaza 21 days ago

Stories covered in-depth:

- **German PM Merkel told Syria to stop supporting violence and especially Hezbollah**
 - o Merkel holds EU presidency
 - o Asks Syria to respect UN resolution which calls for investigation into Hariri murder
 - o Arrived in Beirut – had Talks with Seniora and Biri
 - o Report from Beirut – Met with Seniora where she assured Lebanon that the international community stands by Lebanon and will ensure Syria respects Lebanese sovereign territory
- Nancy Pelosi visits Beirut
 - o Expected to visit Syria later – a move criticized by the Bush
 - o Pelosi announced that she is travelling to Syria with a clear message – to abandon supporting terrorism and get serious about negotiations
 - o Syria has to explain roles in the various conflicts and developments in the region – have great hope for region
 - o Clip of what Pelosi said
- Ziad Abu Amr, on a three-day visit to France, met Monday with French counterpart Philippe Douste-Blazy and was holding talks Tuesday with Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin.
 - o French government is in close contact with the Palestinian government in regards to the release of Gilad Shalit
 - o France supports the notion of withdrawal from Palestinian territory
 - o Ensured support in funding projects in the occupied territories
 - o Report from Paris

- US have announced that it is willing to face Iraqi insurgents anywhere in the country. The increased support is going to last for 5 months to ensure the level of security

Website:

- ***Merkel warns Syria to respect Lebanon's sovereignty***
 - o German PM Angela Merkel visited Beirut on Tuesday and met with Lebanese PM Seniora
 - § Merkel announced that Germany stands by the Lebanese government
 - § She warned Syria to determine its borders with Lebanon and respect its independence – She also hope that the investigation into the murder of former PM
 - § Seniora states that the Lebanese army needs international support and funding to be able to protect its borders and prevent smuggling operations
 - § Merkel offered to be an intermediate between Israel and Lebanon and will ask Israel to respect Lebanese airspace
 - § Merkel also met with Biri who she informed that she is in Lebanon to speak to all sides of the political divide
 - o At the same time American Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, is also in Beirut and had meetings with Seniora and Biri
 - § She also visited the grave site of late PM Hariri
 - § Arrived in Beirut from Syria – visit to Syria comes at a time when US and Syria are at odds over Hariri investigation and Iraq
 - § White House – Visit is against efforts of UN to isolate Bashar Al Asad – It is not giving the right message to Syria and Syria will make the most of it
 - § Pelosi reacted by stating that various Republicans have visited Syria in the best – the White House reacted by saying that they received the same criticism
- ***Five peacekeeping troops killed in Darfur***
 - o Highest death toll since 2004
 - o Happened as they were guarding a water well near the border with Chad
 - o Four died during the attack while one died later of the wounds he had sustained – 3 attackers also died
 - o 40 civilians were killed in an attack on a Muslim tribe in the region – cattle was stolen
 - o UN and AU have stated that its difficult to ensure security due to revenge killings
 - o Camps are overcrowded – UN refusing to accept more refugees
 - o People have fled to other parts of Sudan and Chad to flee the fighting since 2003
 - o Peace keeping force of 7000 soldiers has not been able to ensure security for a region which has seen 200,000 killed

- *Iran: All of the sailors admit intruding into its waters*
 - o An Iranian broadcast has stated that all 15 sailors have admitted to crossing into Iranian sovereign territory – UK claims it was Iraqi territory
 - o Confession is on film but will not be shown due to changing British political stance
 - o Diplomatic letter has been sent during weekend
 - o Pictures of 2 more sailors has been aired in which they confess to the intrusion
 - o Two sailors informed the station that they were conducting a search mission when they entered Iran – they also said they are being treated well
 - o Student demonstrations have broken out in Tehran against the “illegal entry” of British vessels and navy personnel into Iranian territory
 - o Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the UK has coined these images unacceptable and states they scare the families of the captures sailors
 - o British navy official Sir Alan West stated that the captured could be under a lot of pressure to make such statements - they have not received training to be exposed to questioning like pilots or special operatives do
 - § The video was a joke for the Iranians and the Arab World only!

BBC News 24 (02/04/07):

Main stories:

- **Captured Navy personnel**
 - o **Breaking News** – Iran’s Chief International Negotiator (Ali Larijani)
 - § Wants Britain to promise not to carry out intrusion again
 - § Iran wants to resolve the issue diplomatically
 - o Iran releases more pictures
 - o Claims all fifteen admitted that they were
 - o Public condemnation – positive changes
 - o Both sides tuning down the rhetoric – Iran has confirmed that it won’t show anymore footage of the British sailors ⇌ Britain showing more positive attitude
 - § Clips from the streets of Iran show a more pacifist approach to the issue
 - o Britain has hinted that they are willing to negotiate with Iran on deciding how to avoid such incidents in the future- Clip explaining the position that erosion could cause the middle of the Shatt Al Arab (and thus the Gulf) to shift
 - o BBC Correspondent – Francis Harrison – Iran seems to have changed its position – softer position. No direct contacts in Tehran this weekend – Iranians have
- **Iraq Death** – British soldier killed in Basra
- **Japan murder** – CCTV footage shows victim and man who owned the flat the body was found in
 - o Ambassador asks public for help

- **Brown Pensions Row** - CBI hits back at Gordon Brown – never supported pension tax change
- **Heart valve replacement** - Human heart tissue breakthrough – Stems cells used to grow heart tissue è testing entering new phase (being tested on animals)
- **Smoking ban** - Wales imposes smoking ban on all enclosed public places
- **Falkland’s anniversary** – ceremonies take place to commemorate the start of the Falklands war
- **Kidnapped journalist** – Rallies and demonstrations held to commemorate the fourth week of captivity of BBC Journalist Alan Johnson – was captured at gun point in Gaza city (Abducted by masked gunmen – no claim of responsibility, no one know who kidnapped him – very worrying time for relatives)
 - o **Kidnappings tend to end peacefully** – Pressure coming from Palestinian journalists and the BBC (images of demonstration held by Gaza journalist to secure release of Alan Johnson)
 - o **“Worry that Gaza is becoming a story which is too unsafe to tell”** – Palestinian journalist staging three day strike to put pressure on authorities to do something
 - o Criminal/political motive could be involved – PA under monetary restrictions to really act – Gaza becoming more dangerous

On BBC website headlines:

- *Tsunami sparks Solomons emergency*
- *Falkland invasion marked*
- *EMI takes locks off music tracks*
- *US court rejects Guantanamo test*
- *Children killed in Iraq bombings*
- *Seized UK crew ‘admit trespass’*
- *French protests for BBC reporter*
- *New blow to US housing market*
- *Blood groups ‘can be converted’*
- ...

CNN (02/04/07):

Main stories:

- **Zimbabwe** - Zimbabwe’s main opposition leader in South Africa for medical care – warned only legitimate government could reverse the demise of the country
- **Iranian state run TV**
 - o All 15 have confessed to trespassing into Iranian waters
 - o Iranian TV won’t air anymore images of captives – this comes in light of British opposition to Iran airing the images
- **Solomon Islands** – Another Tsunami is possible in Solomon Island area
- **Sainthood for Pope** - Pope John Paul II moves closer to sainthood – 100s mark the second anniversary of his death

Website:

- *Iraq war's 'deadliest attack'*
- *13 dead in Solomons tsunami*
- *Iranian TV: UK detainees confess*
- *American reported missing in Iran*
- *Peacekeeper killed in Darfur*
- *EMI, Apple sign 'Beatleless' deal*
- *Sean Lennon: Your Paul's daughter?*
- *Search for place of Christ's last supper*
- *Pope takes first step to sainthood*
- *UK scientist 'grow heart tissue'*
- *Scotty's ashes to be 'beamed up'*
- *In the land of the rising real estate*
- ...

Notes 02/04/07:

- It is again the selection of stories which is most evidently different between the various news sources:
 - o While BBCWS Arabic is dominated by the trips of German Chancellor Merkel and US Speaker of the House Pelosi to the Middle East, CNN and BBC News 24 still predominantly cover the Iranian/UK stand-off and general violence in Iraq
- BBC (English and Arabic) cover the story of missing BBC journalist Alan Johnston à CNN hasn't only covered him on a limited scope

03/04/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **Us president criticises Pelosi for her attempt on reconstructing ties with Syria, based on her visit to Syria contradicting signs**
- UK Beckett clarifies comments made by the prime minister regarding Iran, aware of the consequences of escalating the problem at hand.
- Ukrainian victor Uchenko he doesn't intend to use force to implement his decision of dissolving the parliament and imposing new early elections

Stories covered in-depth:

- **Bush: Contradicting signs from Pelosi**
 - Highest ranking official to visit Syria, she hopes for high diplomatic relations with Syria
 - In Beirut she adds that she believes that the ICJ would proceed with Hariri assassination, she also hopes that Syrian role would progress in Iraq
 - Pelosi held previous talks with Abbass and Olmert
- Bush accuses democrats of hindering American forces in Iraq and had acted irresponsibly with Senate and Congress votes
 - Any decision affecting the Iraq strategy would cause the whole war to regress
 - Would affect the soldiers by making them stay longer than intended.
- Beckett: Urges caution in Iran and UK stand-off
 - Her perception of a fast resolution stands corrected by Iranian comments
 - Tony Blair mentioned that dire measures would be taken to alleviate this problem, yet Beckett corrects Blair by saying that the UK isn't looking for military response
- International community including African, European, and US to find an end to the violence in Somalia
 - Meeting is meant to be held in Egypt.
 - In Mogadishu, all sides agreed upon working towards a ceasefire.
 - Amr Moosa addresses international community about dire situation in Somalia.
 - Also: Pirates In Mogadishu take over a ship, one official reports that the pirates want ransom.
- Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko calls for re-election

- Says decision is to prevent use of force in a country seeing worst protest since 2004
- PM Viktor Yanukovich rushed to the capital to set up a camp to protest to call for new elections which holding talks with the Ukrainian president

Website:

- ***Bush warns of a delay in transferring funds to the American troops in Iraq***
 - Bush has warned that if congress and himself failed to come to an agreement the Iraqis are going to be the ones that suffer
 - Bush – Congress failing its political responsibilities by failing to release funds and equipment
 - Bush reiterated his threat to veto the bill once it comes before him
 - Congress bill is asking to halt payments to the American forces by next year
 - Congress currently in spring recession
 - Bush - If Congress doesn't change its position on the funding law it will result in and increase in the cost of getting the troops out and pain to the loved ones – eventually it will result in troops staying longer
 - Democratic Senator Harry Reed – If Bush vetoes the law then he will ensure the Senate passes a decision to stop the funding
 - Article re-caps bill passed by Congress

- ***International conference underway in Cairo to investigate the crisis in Somalia***
 - Conference discussed fighting which broke out between Ethiopian and Somali troops on one side and armed individuals on the other
 - Various participants urged a continuation of the ceasefire in Somalia to restore calm and security
 - The ceasefire came into place as the Ethiopians and Hawieh group agreed to stop fighting
 - Amr Mousa (Arab Secretary General) addressed the meeting and supported a stop to the fighting
 - International Red Cross had coined the fighting as the worst in years and said that hundred died in the violence
 - US officials have stated that 15,000 people have attempted to flee the fighting in the last three months
 - Somali PM encouraged moderates to participate in talks but not those that do not recognize the transitional government
 - Fighting comes after Ethiopian troops overthrew government last December and set up transitory government
 - Former government denies any involvement in terrorism
 - 1700 Ugandan troops stationed in Somalia at the moment – meant to replace the Ethiopians
 - Those fleeing the fighting have been caught at Kenyan border
 - Article describes worsening circumstances of refugees
 - Rescue agencies not able to cope with fleeing masses
 - Since ceasefire hospitals have reported a decrease in deaths

- Reuters reports that tensions are still high and fighting could break out any time
- *Beckett – Blair did not hint towards military action to free sailors*
 - Beckett had warned not to expect a quick resolution in the crisis surrounding the captured sailors
 - She also clarified that Blair did not hint towards military action when referring to other means of dealing with Iran
 - Beckett said people read into things more than what was actually being said
 - Iran TV has aired new images of the sailors talking amongst each other
 - Blair had stated that Britain would change its policy if diplomacy fails
 - Iranian chief negotiator Larijani has announced that the UK wants to send a group to Tehran to further investigate the circumstances
 - Article outlines British and Iranian positions in crisis
 - Iran claims all have admitted to entering Iranian waters – Britain sticks to its position and says confessions are unlawful
 - UK claims it was acting under UN mandate when it searched the vessels in Iraqi waters
 - The articles goes on to outline the events which have occurred since the capture of the sailors (copy/pasted from previous articles)

BBC News 24 (03/04/07):

Main stories:

- **Iran crisis.....day 12:**
 - Iranian TV reveals new pictures of the captured crew (BBC calls the move made by a TV station close to the revolutionary guard as a ‘deliberate provocation’)
 - Warning made tonight not to expect swift resolution as Iranian position seems to be hardening again – Beckett
 - Larijani – If the UK admits they are at fault and assurances that it won’t happen again then the situation can be resolved quickly
 - Tony Blair says next 48 hours critical ⚡ if negotiations stalled then Britain will be forced to take a tougher stance
 - Special Report – Psychological state of captured after twelve days -
 - Beckett – Doesn’t expect the sailors to be released soon
 - Iranians re-act negatively to Blair’s suggestion of claiming that the issue has to be resolved in the next 48 hours. Iranian TV describes the position taken by Blair as attempting to put further pressure on Iran
 - BBC Correspondent Francis Harrison looks at the various possible solutions to the issue
 - Britain still needs the formal response from Iran indicating that they are willing to engage in bilateral talks
- **Modern day slavery** – Children forced into prostitution in the Philippines
- **Dog attack** – Grandmother and uncle of young girl who mauled to death by Bulldog will be charged by the Crown Prosecution Services

- **Pakistan protest** – Pakistani President Musharaf is facing mass protest following the dismissal of judge. Demonstrations had been started by lawyers and the over-reaction to the police has led to the mass-demonstrations. US, UK depend on Pakistan president in war on terror.
- **CCTV Law Enforcement** – CCTV camera used to monitor streets and advise pedestrians when they are breaking the law in a pilot project in the town centre of Middlesbrough
- **Election 2007** – 312 English councils face election (more than 10,000 seats)
 - o Look at the Labour, Conservative and Libdem campaigns gearing up to elections

On BBC website headlines:

- *Ukraine rivals in tense stand-off*
- *Bush warns over Iraq funds delay*
- *Maradona's health improving*
- *Caution urged over Iran captives*
- *Bush rival breaks Syria boycott*
- *UK police in Woolmer probe*
- *Waning of bad hurricane season*
- *Fatal shooting at CNN Atlanta HQ*
- *Smuggled butterfly find in Serbia*
- ...

CNN (03/04/07):

Website:

- *One dead after CNN shooting*
- *New images of seized Britons*
- *Bodies pulled from tsunami rubble*
- *Bush: Clock ticking on Iraq funds*
- *Pelosi receives warm Syria welcome*
- *Zimbabweans strike in protest*
- *France's TGV sets speed record*
- *EU launches iTunes probe*
- *RAF 'considered suicide mission'*
- *'Chocolate Jesus' leaves bitter taste*
- *Mr. Universe in 'drunken assault'*
- *Timerlake: I despise gossip mags*
- *Melanie 'Scary Spice' Brown a mom*
- ...

Notes 03/04/07:

- BBCWS Arabic does carry Iran/UK diplomatic row more dominantly today – stronger emphasis on the comments made by Beckett to clarify statement made by Blair on BBCWS than on the other two (BBC News 24 giving an in-depth coverage of the events while CNN places more emphasis on the images released of the sailors)
- All three channels carrying the story of Pelosi visiting the Middle East à controversy of trip to Syria
- BBCWS Arabic is the only channel to carry the story of conference being held in Cairo for stabilizing Somalia à in general BBCWS pays greater attention to African news in general (Sudan, Somalia, Zimbabwe)

04/04/07

Radio:

Headlines:

- **Blair – Welcomes news of the imminent release of 15 sailors**
 - o Washington welcomes these developments as well
 - o News about the involvement of the Vatican
- Syria is glad about Pelosi visit with her delegates – indicates they are ready to start a diplomatic relations with Israel
- Hamas wins in student elections at Beir Zeit University
- Continuing demonstrations in the Ukrainian capital to oppose call for re-election by President Yuchenko

Stories covered in-depth:

- **Blair: Expresses his relief about the relief of the sailors**
 - o Relief for them and their families
 - o Don't have bad intentions for Iran – look for solving all conflicts peacefully
- Ahmadinajad decided to pardon the captured navy crew – he reiterates that they were detained peacefully in Iran
 - o Officials are going to be heading to London on Thursday morning
- Iran states that their officials have been allowed to meet with the five prisoners held in Iraq
 - o Iran claims they were diplomats while America states they were supplying terrorist
 - o Rice spokesperson claimed they had no information regarding whether the release of the sailors is connected to the ability to visit detained Iranians in Iraq
- Nancy Pelosi says she has sent a message to Bashar Al Asad which outlines the Israeli intent to initiate peace negotiations with Syria.
 - o Minister of Information – Visit of Pelosi will be the start of opening negotiations between Syria and various countries (especially the US and Syria)
 - o Bush on the other hand criticises Pelosi's visit to Syria – contradicting official American policy on Syria (and abroad) – describes Syria as a Palestinian country
- Journalists interrupted an assembly meeting in an attempt to demonstrate against the PA's inability to ensure the release of BBC journalist Alan Johnston
 - o BBC doesn't have any new information on the safety and location of the journalist since his detention

- The 'surge' in Iraq will be reaching new levels in Iraq according to Iraqi officials
 - o American soldiers are meant to take part in operation in Mosul on Monday – American official said that if the Iraqis need more support America is willing to commit a larger force to the operations.
- Algeria is launching new attacks against rebels (*thawriyoon*)
 - o Thousands of troops and helicopters involved in operation
 - o No injuries of dead or injured
 - o Thawriyeen (rebels) are being linked to Al Qaeda by the Algerian government due to their hard-line religious beliefs
- American Senator Barak Obama stated that he has announced that he has gathered enough funds to be able to run his presidential campaign as the democratic candidate

Website:

- ***Iran frees the British sailors***
 - o Iranian president Ahmedinajad has announced that he is releasing the 15 British sailors detained in the Gulf
 - o As the 15 had admitted their incursion, the president has decided to grant them with this gift
 - o Blair has stated that he is relieved at the news – did not thank Iranian president and also affirmed that Britain holds no grudge against the Iranian people
 - o Iranian TV aired the images of the 15 British sailors watching the speech of the president on TV and being overcome with joy at the news of their release
 - o President Ahmedinajad joked with the detained sailors later in a ceremony held with the president – asking whether they enjoyed their forced vacation
 - o 15 wearing suits not the uniform or track suits they had been filmed in before
 - o One of the sailors thanked the Iranian president on behalf of the president and also thanked the Iranian people
 - o President announced that the release was going to be imminent and that they will be brought to the airport soon
 - o The Iranian president asked Blair not to persecute them for entering Iranian waters. He also asked Blair to stop occupying other nations and think of the British people rather than himself
 - o Britain claims they were arrested while following UN resolution allowing them to search vessels in that area – confessions of the sailors are unlawful
 - o BBC correspondent in Tehran said that as the Iranian president made no mention of the release of the sailors for more than an hour it had seemed unlikely that he would announce their release – came as a surprise when he did
 - o Ahmadinajad said he regrets that the UK does not have the courage to stand by the truth and continues to make mistakes

- Blair reacted by saying he welcomes the news of their release and that the British government is currently investigating the ‘when & hows’ of the release
 - The Iranian president further criticized the British government for not being willing to compromise to secure the release of its sailors
 - At the start of the speech the president criticized the UN’s role in the violence in Iraq and Lebanon – accused all the countries he says are responsible for all the destruction
 - He stated that he aims to stop them and defend the rights of the violated
 - Press conference had been commenced with verses from Koran and with the President talking about the modern history of the Middle East and how the west has always interfered negatively in the region – have Iraq as an example (false accusation of WMDs)
- *Pelosi: Assad ready for negotiations with Israel*
- Nancy Pelosi, US Speaker of the House, has announced that she believes Assad is ready for negotiations with Israel
 - Pelosi had handed a letter to Assad outlining the conditions Israel sets for resuming peace negotiations
 - She said that the ‘American delegation’ aimed to make it clear that they are worried about Syria allowing armed civilians into Iraq, the fate of the 2 Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Hizbollah and the fate of the Israeli soldier captured in Gaza.
 - Pelosi complimented the stance Assad was making towards Israel which indicated that he is ready for peace
 - Visit included a lot of touristy activity for Pelosi – Article outlines her visits to Syrian sights
 - US president George Bush criticized the visit as a contradicting sign of foreign policy – counter-productive to the aim to isolate Syria
 - Syrian press – Visit is a positive sign – Syrian Times called Pelosi a strong woman
 - Syrian FM stated that a real conversation is the only way to resolve the issues in the region
 - Bush has boycotted contacts to Syria since the beginning of 2005
 - Pelosi reacted to the stance of the White House by stating she does not recall the White House reacting so strongly when republicans visited Syria
 - Syrian newspaper – Americans are realizing the failures of their policies in Iraq and towards Syria
 - Hopes are running high that balance will be returned to the American position in the region
 - Pelosi’s visit to Syria comes amongst a number of visits to other Mid-East countries – Article recounts visits to Israel, Palestinian territories, Syria and Lebanon
- *Iraqi government has announced an expansion of the security operations in Baghdad*
- Security operation going to be expanded outside of the capital
 - Expansion began Tuesday

- A lot of attention will still be placed on Baghdad though
- The US said it is willing to send troops wherever they are needed in Iraq
- The increased support is going to last for 5 months to ensure the level of security

BBC News 24 (04/04/07):

Main stories:

- ***Captured Navy Crew***
 - President Ahmadinajad announced unexpectedly at the end of a press conference that he will be releasing the captured British sailors
 - § Sailors were filmed hearing of the news
 - Speech of Ahmadinajad – Spent an hour criticizing Western involvement in the Middle East over the past century – very aggressive speech. Hopes faded as the Iranian President awarded the navy official who captured the British sailors with a medal. Then he announced that on the birthday of the prophet and the day Jesus Christ ascended to heaven – Iranian people forgive these people – offer releases of 15 sailors as a gift to the English people
 - “ Speech conference followed a staged meeting with Iranian president after the
 - President Ahmadinajad surprised everyone with his announcement – his reply on why ‘Gift to the British people’, but never changed their mind they never wanted confrontation
 - Blair – Welcomes news
 - § Britain stayed strong but calm – not negotiating but not attacking either
 - § Britain bore the Iranian people no ill will
 - Interview with parents of the sailors returning home to the UK

On BBC website headlines:

- ***Iranians release British sailors***
- ***Obama fundraising rivals Clinton***
- ***Airlines warned over compensations***
- ***US Democrat Pelosi in Syria talks***
- ***SA memorial for Woolmer***
- ***Tamil Tigers’ sea HQ ‘destroyed’***
- ***Joan of Arc remains ‘are fake’***

CNN (04/04/07):

- ***Blair to Iranians: ‘No ill will’***
- ***Pelosi pushes Syria on militants***
- ***Ukraine rivals locked in standoff***
- ***‘Talking’ CCTV camera a scheme grows***
- ***BA: The biggest luggage losers***
- ***Woman’s lawsuits: Negligent dancing***

- *5 mummified corpses found in house*
- *Virtual feds visit Second Life*
- *French candidates' taste for speed*
- *Greek unearth Roman tomb*
- *Richards: Snorting dad was a joke*
- ...

Notes 04/04/07:

- In the coverage of the release of the British soldiers from Iranian captivity, BBCWS pays more attention to the speech given by Ahmadinajad than CNN or BBC News 24 does (larger parts of it are translated than in the English articles)
- Interesting to note that in reference to rebels/insurgents in Algeria BBCWS uses the term *thawriyoon* rather than the term *musala7oon* (which it usually tends to use when referring to the insurgents in Iraq).
 - o *Thawriyoon* has a more negative connotation and similar to the term *insurgents* indicates resistance to the authority of the government (while *musala7oon*, as explained previously, simply refers to armed individuals)
- BBCWS only source to report on developments in Algeria and Iraq

05/04/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **Blair – Relieved that the 15 sailors are back in the UK**
- Four British soldiers and one interpreter killed in a roadside bomb in a village outside the southern Iraqi city of Basra
- Rice has stated she does not rule out meeting her Iranian counterpart Mottaki on the sidelines of an international conference in Iraq in early May
- PM Haniyeh meets the British consul in Jerusalem

Stories covered in-depth:

- **Blair welcomes the release of 15 captives sailors**
 - o Blair praised the service these sailors do for the navy and their country
 - o Clip of Blair (in English - not translated at all) pointing out that no deal was struck between the UK and Iran on their release
 - o New lines of communications have opened with Iran through this crisis
 - o 15 captives met their friends and loved ones upon arrival
 - o Release of sailors come at a time when 4 soldiers and an interpreter are killed in a roadside bomb explosion in Basra
 - § Blair – Mourn the death of the four while celebrating the release of the 15
- Rice has stated that she does not rule out a meeting with Mottaki in May during the international conference on Baghdad
- Nancy Pelosi meets Saudi monarch in Riyadh
 - o Discusses Iraq and Palestinian territories with King Abdullah bin Abdel Aziz
 - o Clip of Pelosi (translated:
 - § Discussed the role Saudi will play in the peace process
 - § How to encourage Syria to become more active in peaceful negotiations – and to solve problems with Lebanon
 - § Enjoyed the personal visit which highlight how important American-Saudi relations are
 - o Visit to Riyadh follows visit to Syria – delivered message from Israeli PM Olmert to Syria in which Israel outlined her suggestions for reviving the peace process
- British Consul in Jerusalem meets with Palestinian PM Haniyeh in Jerusalem
 - o Meeting dealt with how to ensure a quick resolution to kidnapping of BBC journalist
 - o British diplomats have stated that this does not indicate a change in British policy towards PA ministers or are Hamas officials

- Johnson kidnapped three weeks ago while he was covering stories in Gaza
- BBC has encouraged a quick release of Johnson
- Chechnya inaugurates ex-rebel turned Moscow ally Ramzan Kadyrov as its new president in Gudermes
 - Clip (with translation) of Kadyrov being sworn in è swearing to uphold Chechen laws
- UN to discuss climate as security issue
 - Britain's UN Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry said the meeting will highlight sensitive issues of climate change and the importance of addressing its potential security threats
 - § Island nations could disappear, famine and increasing water levels
 - § Going to affect majority of population and area of the earth
 - § Aim to do everything possible to aid those countries affected by rising water

Website:

- ***Blair: No deal with Iran***
 - No deal had been struck to secure the release of the capture sailors
 - The sailors had been released without any compromises
 - Blair happy about release and disturbed by the death of 4 soldiers in Basra
 - Although new lines of communication have been opened with Iran, they will not accept any acquisition of nuclear weapons by Iran and support to terrorism
 - Blair had stated that he was thrilled that the sailors arrived back in the UK but was saddened by the harsh and ugly reality of the killings in Basra
 - Road side bomb killed 4 and severely injured another
 - Although it is too early to implicate Blair had hinted that Iran might be playing a role in arming the insurgents
 - He stated that aspects of the Iranian regime are supporting terrorists in Iraq financially and militarily
 - Recount of how the sailors had been captured
 - When asked whether an assurance not to enter Iranian waters again was given to Iran, Blair answered by stating they weren't in Iranian waters to begin with
 - Denied the release of Iranian in Iraq had anything to do with the release of sailors
 - Blair adds that they were able to ensure a safe return of the sailors as soon as possible without making any deals
 - The UK had stuck to the policy of soft diplomacy throughout the crisis – would have not been possible without international support
 - British official – no deal had been struck with Iraq, Iraqi government had acted on its own behalf

- BBC Reporter – Blair failed to answer some crucial questions in the press conference like what can be done to avoid such events in the future?
 - Iranian president Ahmadinejad has stated that the British sailors had invaded Iranian waters and that the release was a gift
 - Recount of the conference held in Iran upon the announcement of the release – points out that Blair had not reacted to speech
- *Death of four British soldiers and translator in Basra*
- Death of four soldiers and one translator in a roadside bomb attack in Basra
 - Six soldiers have died this week so far and 140 since 2003
 - On another note, an American helicopter was shot down in southern Baghdad
 - A total of 50 helicopters have been shot down since start of invasion
 - Four American soldiers also killed in other attacks across Iraq
 - Conflicting reports about the identity of the translator
 - Seven Iraqis have been killed in other violence
 - Reuters: An unnamed Iraqi official has stated that ten Iraqis had been killed at a checkpoint on Thursday morning
 - § 40 attackers involved in attack, soldiers were sleeping at the time
 - PM Maliki has accepted the resignation of Minister of Justice Hashim Al Shibly
 - § Minister of Justice and government have had various disagreements in past
 - § Amongst these were criticism made by Shibly towards the Saddam execution and handlings in the city of Kirkuk
- *Four Muslim Brotherhood members released in Egypt*
- Four members of the Muslim Brotherhood have been released in Egypt
 - Four other still being held – had been arrested for belonging to a dangerous group and distributing flyers which harm the country
 - 11 arrested – Muslim Brotherhood spokesperson had stated that they were distributing medical supplies in a poor Cairo neighbourhood when they were arrested
 - 300 members of the group have been arrested for opposing the constitutional amendments in the country
 - Assistant Secretary General, Khairat Shater, highest ranking official in long list of members to be arrested
 - Brotherhood not recognized in Egypt
 - Egyptian government fears a revival of the armed wing of the group which had been powerful prior to 1952

BBC News 24 (05/04/07):

Main stories:

- **Navy Crew Returns**
 - Claims one was kept in solitary confinement in Iran

- § Family of one of the former captured sailor's families had informed a BBC correspondent at Devon that their relative had been kept in solitary confinement
 - § Would indicate a different image to
 - Blair: Release had been secured by British diplomacy but no deal was struck (of any nature) ⇒ welcomed the release of the sailors but also reminded of the deaths in Basra – linked the Iranians to the on-going violence in the region (pieces of the regime)
 - § Documentary report on the comments of Blair continues to discuss how it is still necessary
 - § Didn't directly accuse Iran but wanted to remind the world that Iran is a dangerous country
 - § Blair also indicated that new avenues of communication have been opened up
 - Plane landed at Heathrow before they were flown to military base in Devon (family and loved ones were waiting at the RAF base in north Devon)
 - Navy planning on giving the crew medical check ups and being debriefed – but not for now as they are still enjoying being re-united
 - Lt Col Andy Price read a statement agreed by all 15 sailors in the name of the other upon return
 - Francis Harrison – BBC Correspondent – Iran claims they received a letter on Tuesday from Britain apologizing for incursion
 - James Coomarasamy – BBC Correspondent – US welcomes the release of the navy personnel but making it clear that they believe this is hostage diplomacy (pattern of similar events since the hostage crisis in 1980)
 - § No deal had been struck with Iranians held by Americans
 - §
- **Violence in Iraq** - Four British soldiers killed by Roadside bomb in Basra
 - Different Shiite groups have been vying for power since the UK announced its gradual withdrawal from the area
 - Interview with Iraq specialist – South controlled by Mehdi army who is known to have links to Iran
 - § Components of the weapons are all made in Iran
 - § Although many factio
- **July Bombings** - Three men charged in connection with July 7th bombing
- **Manchester Reaction** – Club believes the police had dealt with the fans too roughly in Rome

On BBC website headlines:

- **'No deal done with Iran' – Blair**
- Three charged over London bombings
- Warming 'already changing world'
- Ukraine PM asks Austria to help
- US helicopter 'shot down' in Iraq
- UK-Hamas talks over reporter
- Cruise ship evacuated off Greece
- Football clashes raise questions

- Striped rabbit spotted in Sumatra

CNN (05/04/07):

- *UK sailors reunited with families*
- *3 charged over London bombings*
- *US, UK troops killed in Iraq*
- *Fired astronaut: Judge limits news*
- *Kerkorian in \$4.5B Chrysler bid*
- *YouTube clip killed amid Thai fury*
- *Drop-off hatch for unwanted babies*
- *Googles executives on \$1 salaries*
- *1,200 rescued from cruise ship*
- *Wal-Mart sorry for 'threats'*
- *'Christmas Story' director killed*
- *Outrage over 'distressing' fan beatings*
- *Scream on scary ride and you'll get booted off*

Notes 05/04/07:

- Both BBCWS Arabic and international news website of the BBC covered the meeting between the British consul in Jerusalem and Palestinian PM Haniyeh. The manner in which the topic is approached differs slightly between the two sources:
 - o Although BBCWS does mention that the UK has announced that this does not indicate a change in policy towards the Hamas-led Palestinian government, the BBC international article goes to greater lengths to emphasize this aspect of the story
 - § While headline on the radio was *British Consul in Jerusalem meets with Palestinian PM Haniyeh in Jerusalem*, the one on the BBC English website reads *UK-Hamas talks over reporter*
 - § The article on BBC international goes to greater lengths to explain the stance taken by the UK, EU (in viewing Hamas as a terrorist movement) and refers to the Palestinian PM Haniyeh as a member of the militant-group Hamas
- BBCWS covers story on inauguration of new Chechen president à becoming more and more evident as I did this diary that if BBCWS covers a story outside the Arabic world (which does not directly affect the Arabic world) it usually tends to be about nations which have a strong link to the Arab world. These links can be religious (as is the case with Chechnya, Sudan, etc.) or historical (as is the case with France à BBCWS Arabic has covered various stories about internal French affairs over the past month)

06/04/07:

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **15 British sailors who returned to the UK yesterday have held a press conference on their captivity**
- Iran dismisses the press conference as a publicity stunt
- In Iraq an explosion kills 35 and wounds dozens in the Iraqi city of Ramadi
 - o In Diwaniya, Iraqi and American soldiers are fighting members of the Mehdi army
- Palestinian President calls for the release of held BBC journalist Alan Johnson

Stories covered in-depth:

- **Seven of the sailors who returned home to the UK yesterday have talked about their experiences in a press conference in the UK today**
 - o Stated that they were in Iraqi waters and had never entered Iranian waters (clip of statement of marine translated into Arabic)
 - o Iranian FM has dismissed the conference as a publicity stunt – the sailors were in Iranian waters
 - o Iranian TV has stated that the sailors had been briefed what to say by the British secret service
- In violence in Iraq, 35 people were killed and dozens injured in an explosion in the city of Ramadi
 - o 20 of the injured were suffering from chlorine poisoning – the gas had been used in the explosion
 - o American and Iraqi troops have clashed with elements of the Mehdi army in Diwaniya in the south of Baghdad
 - o Armed Sunni group in Iraq has warned Al Qaeda to review its activities in Iraq – an increasing sign of the rift between home-grown armed factions and Al Qaeda
- Abbas has announced that intensive efforts are underway to secure the release of BBC Journalist Alan Johnston
 - o Journalist had been kidnapped in Gaza last month
 - o Abbas told French news agency that he was hoping for a quick and unproblematic resolution of the circumstances
 - § Clip of the comments made by Abbas – all efforts are being exerted, contacts with British government on the issue, taking it one step at a time but hopefully a quick release
- Democratic and human rights activist Kamal al Labwani is due back in court on the 10th of April

- Labwani was arrested on his return to Syria in 2005 following a tour of Europe and North America where he called for peaceful democratic reform in Syria
- Pakistan: Leading cleric at a mosque in the Pakistani capital has called on worshippers to carry out attacks if the government attempts to curb his movement
 - Asking the government to allow more religious control and power to movement
 - Clip of speech (translated into Arabic) – calling for government to stop crackdown of movement and mosque worshippers

Website:

- ***UK sailors: Badly treated in Iran***
 - 15 British sailors have claimed they were jailed and put into solitary confinement for up to 13 days
 - One sailor recounted threats and guns being prepared for firing as they were blindfolded – “They were afraid of the worst consequences”
 - The 15 sailors stated at a press conference that they had been threatened that if they do not admit to entering Iranian water they could face up to 7 years in prison
 - Iranian response – Press conference only for propaganda
 - Iranian TV – British intelligence had briefed them on what to say
 - BBC Correspondents in Iran – Sailors comments will make relations between the UK and Iran difficult
 - White House – Iran acted unprofessionally and will only cause more anger towards itself
 - Iranian TV – Expected for sailors to change their stories under government pressure
 - Statements read by Felix Carman and Chris Air:
 - § Stated they were badly treated
 - § Didn’t have a choice to object – if they would have objected they would not be alive now
 - § Read two pre-written documents
 - § They were outside Iranian waters
 - § Iran intended to arrest them
 - § Solitary confinement and questioning most nights until recent days
 - § Only time together was under the forced light of the Iranian press
 - Faye Tourney did not attend the press conference
 - Ahmadinajad announced release at a press conference
- *Separation starts between the armed militants in Iraq*
 - Prominent Sunni group in Iraq criticises Al Qaeda members in Iraq and Bin Laden
 - ‘Islamic Army in Iraq; is believed to include old Ba’athist members and Saddam army officials
 - Group complains about Al Qaeda killing other militants

- Group invites Al Qaeda to reconsider their actions and repent
 - These comments come during rising tensions between Al Qaeda and other militant groups in Iraq
 - Traditional Sunni leaders accuse Al Qaeda of random killings
 - Office of Al Maliki also announced that old Saddam officials are being re-instated into military
 - Old army officials are mostly Sunni
- *Cheney re-iterates Al Qaeda connection with Iraq*
- Cheney re-iterates the claim that Al Qaeda was connected with Iraq prior to the '03 invasion of Iraq
 - “They were there before we invaded Iraq”
 - Comments come hours after the Pentagon released a report which assures that no connection existed between Saddam and Al Qaeda
 - Report was release following democratic pressure – they believe the pre-intelligence was modified
 - Bush incentive to invade Iraq was in part due to the Al Qaeda connection
 - Intelligence is criticised for being slecitive
 - Cheney – Zarqawi was there before 2003 and continued to carry out attacks till coalition forces (“we”) killed him
 - Democrats pushed for the full release of pre-war intelligence reports as some of the reports were inappropriate
 - Democrats – it is unacceptable and inappropriate to assume a relationship between the two existed – meeting between Mohammad Atta and high-ranking Iraqi official never took place

BBC News 24 (06/04/07):

Main stories:

- **Navy Crew Home:**
- Press Conference given by six of the returned sailors:
 - § “When we were detained by the IRG we were inside Iraqi national waters.”
 - § “Fighting back was simply not an option – Iranian navy came in intent with heavy weapons’
 - § They had been given two options – admit that they had committed the trespassing and leave home or be imprisoned for seven years
 - § Subjected to constant psychological pressure
 - § Solitary confinement, blindfolded and kept in isolation, feared for their lives
 - § Put up against a wall, hand bounds and blind folded (cocking weapons
 - § Claim to have made a point of never admitting directly
 - § “We got the impression we were going to be executed.”
 - BBC Correspondent – Francis Harrison:
 - § Iranian media has refuted these claims
 - § Sailors had been dictated what to say – FM has issued a statement asking Blair to stop distorting the information

- § They do not understand the compassion behind the release of these sailors
 - § They had been flown to airbase to receive the briefing about what to say happened in Iran
 - § Many Iranians won't believe it – those that know how dissidents are treated in the jails are aware of what they are forced to do to confess
 - Short interviews with the returned sailors of how they were treated (Royal Marines Joe Tindell)
- **Iraq Violence** - Four British soldiers who had been killed in a roadside bombing in Basra, Iraq yesterday have been named
 - Prince William who was a friend of one of the soldiers killed said he was “deeply saddened” by the death
 - According to police chief in Basra, the insurgents used specific type of bomb – “precisely the type of weaponry Britain accuses Iran of supplying the insurgents with”
 - Two more such roadside bombs were discovered on roads frequently used by British troops – “part of these roadside bombs might have originated in Iran – easy to claim but hard to prove”
- **South London shooting:**
 - Pregnant woman has been killed at her home in South London
 - Police have reported that it might have occurred as a dispute over a parking spot
- **UN Environmental report:**
 - Impact will fall hardest on the least protected people – even the poor people in prosperous societies
 - Effects would be water shortages could affect Asia, Africa could face famine, millions could be forced to move – scientist claim the evidence is strong and their warnings have been endorsed by officials from a hundred countries
- **N. Korea Nuclear deal:**
 - US has found a way that it can return 25 million dollars to North Korea – had been a sticking point in the process of the six party talks
 - Deal includes the US, North and South Korea
 - Package could include millions of dollars of economic aid to North Korea
- **New Landlord laws:**
 - Protects “bond” money from being placed into a holdings accounts
- **Ferry sinking:** Two people still missing after two tourists are still missing following the sinking of a ferry off Greece

On BBC website headlines:

- *Release sailors tell of ordeal*
- *Islamabad faces suicide bomb call*
- *Billions face climate change risk*
- *Ramadi suicide bombing 'kills 35'*
- *Gaza protest for missing reporter*
- *Sudan soldiers accused of rape*
- *Cheney makes Iraq-al Qaeda link*
- *N. Korea fund row solution 'found'*

- *US home emptied tax hoax ad*

CNN (06/04/07):

- *UK sailors 'blindfolded, isolated'*
- *Warning 'ruining society, nature'*
- *2 missing as cruise ship sinks*
- *Truck bomb kills 20 in Ramadi/ US, UK forces killed*
- *Abbas: Israel soldier to be freed/ Abbas 'broke promise'*
- *Afghan suicide bomber kills 4*
- *US employment growth jumps*
- *Spurs fury over Seville clashes*
- *5th-graders charged with having sex in class*
- *Pilgrims mark Easter in Jerusalem*
- *\$41,000 for rogue trader's jacket*
- *Angry resident throws fruit at school board*
- *Did Johansson and Timberlake have fling?*
- *90-year-old fish reeled in off Alaska*
- *Germans cash in on Knut-mania*
- ...

Notes 06/04/07:

- BBCWS Arabic is the only source to carry story of increasing tensions between militant groups in Iraq \Rightarrow although both CNN and BBC News 24 carry stories of violence in Iraq their articles make no mention of the criticism expressed by a Sunni group in Iraq against Al Qaeda
- While BBC (English and Arabic) carry developments on the kidnapping of BBC journalist Alan Johnston , CNN mentions developments on the release of kidnapped IDF soldier Gilad Shallit (carrying two articles on the issue)
 - o Neither BBCWS or BBC News 24 mention the comments made by Palestinian President Abbas concerning Israeli soldier Shallit in his speech
- CNN does not mention comments made by US Vice President Cheney in regards to the Al Qaeda/Iraq connection

07/04/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **An international Iraq conference is planned for next month.**
 - o Announcement was made by Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari.
 - o Conference is meant to take place on May 3 – 4
- Palestinian Information Minister Mustafa Barghouti has claimed that Egyptian mediators handed Israel a list of names of Palestinian prisoners to be released as part of a swap
- Iranian Ambassador to Britain has stated in London that Iran is expecting a goodwill gesture in return for the release of the 15 sailors

Stories covered in-depth:

- **Increasing killings and violence in the Iraqi city of Diwaniya**
 - o Iraqi and US Forces facing the ‘shiite’ Mehdi army (blame the Americans and Iraqis on the deaths in the city)
 - o American planes also bombarded the city
 - o US army announces the death of three more soldiers in Baghdad and Kirkuk – 23 American soldiers have been killed in the last week
- International Conference is meant to take place next month in Egypt to debate the pressing issues on Iraq:
 - o Iraqi FM has stated that those countries who want to play an active role in the reconstruction process of Iraq and those that feel an obligation to help the people will be attending the conference
 - o Rice will meet Mottaki for the first time at the expected conference
- Iranian diplomat who had been held captive in Iraq has claimed that he was exposed to extreme forms of torture from the CIA
 - o Had been arrested shopping in Iraq and transferred to Iraqi military base
 - o US forces reject the claims made by the diplomats
 - o Release of Iranian came the same day as the release of the 15 sailors by Iran
- US mission led by Jendayi Frazer arrives in Somalia
 - o The unannounced visit saw meetings with various Somali officials
 - o Sheikh Ahmad, leader of the Islamic Courts who formerly ruled Somalia, stated that he is suspicious of the involvement of foreign forces and hopes that they will truly bring stability to their fellow African nation
 - o Jendayi Frazer is to meet the president and PM in the southern city of Baidoa, seat of the interim government

- Officials in Pakistan have announced that more than 40 people have been killed in fighting between Sunnis and Shiites in the south-east of the country
 - o Fighting started in areas near Afghanistan border
 - o Very little governmental military presence in the cities in the area

- Druze leader Walid Jumblatt has stated that there is “complicity” between Hizbollah and certain Lebanese security officials
 - o They do not search the trucks which travel to areas controlled by Hizbollah
 - o Speaker of Hizbollah (section of speech made by Hizbollah Press officer) states that Lebanese army should prepare to resist any Israeli aggression rather than hinder the resistance – They know its for the resistance

- Gaza and West Bank see demonstrations for the release of kidnapped journalist Alan Johnston
 - o Was kidnapped a month ago

Website:

- ***Zibari – Conference of countries neighbouring Iraq to be held in Egypt***
 - o Iraqi FM Hisham Zibari declared Saturday that a meeting between Foreign Ministers is to take place in Egypt next month
 - § Will also probably include talks with the US and Iran
 - § Talks will take place in Sharm Al Sheikh
 - § Conference due to instability in Iraq – encourages communication between Iraq and its neighbours
 - § Iraq in need of help, assistance and stable environment according to Zibari
 - § French news agency – conference aims to implement goals set at Baghdad conference
 - § Aim is to agree to an international promise to help Iraq
 - o Violence continued in Iraq on Saturday as fighting raged between US and Iraqi troops and the Mehdi army
 - o North and South of country facing violent battles
 - o American troops helped in Operation Black Eagle – fighting Al Sadr army
 - § Diwaniya still without electricity and curfew still in place as fighting continues
 - § 1400 Americans helping Iraqis in operations in Baghdad
 - § American planes dropped flyers over residential areas warning people to leave the area due to the expected fighting
 - § Other flyers called on insurgents to operate with American army or else be killed
 - § 3 US soldiers killed in violence across Iraq
 - o Iraqis demonstrated on Saturday calling for an end to the violence – carried coffins and flags

- *Tehran calls upon London to indicate good intentions*

- British Ambassador in London stated that Britain should have been more positive after the 15 sailors were released
 - Ambassador Mohidan mentioned in an interview with the FT that they want to get their 5 hostages who are being held in Iraq
 - “We did all we could with good intentions now its Britain’s turn to act positively”
 - Denied that the release of the 15 had anything directly to do with hostages being held in Iraq however British involvement in that issue is more than welcome
 - Iran welcomes any step that would decrease tension
 - Iran coins the press conference held by the 15 sailors as a “theatrical stunt” to cover the mistakes the British made
 - Article in the Guardian indicated that the US had offered to use military force to resolve the issue
 - BBC Correspondent Francis Harrison – Opinion in Tehran is that the statements had been directed by the UK government and that the sailors were not mistreated unlike is the case in Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo
 - First time in two weeks they will see their families – some claim to have been in solitary confinement for 13 days
 - Re-cap of what was said at the press conference – see Article 06-04-07
- *Demonstrations in Gaza and West Bank demanding release of Johnston*
- Journalists demonstrate in several cities in Gaza
 - Carrying his pictures and demanding more is done to encourage his release
 - No group has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping
 - If in fact he has been kidnapped – the longest a foreigner has been kidnapped in Gaza
 - Mayor of Jenin sent a letter to Palestinian President Abbas by the journalists asking for increased effort in the releasing of Johnston
 - Demonstrations almost daily
 - BBC Correspondent Mike Sergeant stated that there is rising depression amongst the Palestinian people
 - Johnston kidnapping not helping Palestinian cause
 - UK Consulate in Jerusalem met with Haniyeh earlier in the week to discuss situation
 - First time a UK official met with the Hamas PM
 - Re-cap of Johnston’s activities in Gaza

BBC News 24 (07/04/07)

- **Teenage Stabbings** – A fourteen year old boy dies and another is wounded
Police question two people in stabbing of teenager
 - 19 year old and 13 year old have been arrested
 - Other victim of attack still in critical condition
- **UK-Iran Diplomatic Row**
 - In exchange for their actions of goodwill Iran is now expecting the UK to do the same

- Francis Harrison (BBC Correspondent) documentary – Iranian TV dismisses accounts of British sailors as a fabrication
 - § Foreign Spokesman to the Iranian Government accused the British government of telling the sailors what to do
 - § Iranian paper shows Faye Tourney and her young daughter – paper stated that she didn't attend the news conference because she didn't want to lie
 - § Interviews with Iranians all indicate that the Iranian people are upset and bitter over the reaction of the British government and sailors
 - § Sense of humiliation is becoming present in Iran following the diplomatic row
- 15 returned sailors enjoying two weeks of
- **Shooting incident** – Police release image of pregnant woman shot dead in her house in south London yesterday
- **July 7th suspects** – Three men have been charged of conspiracy of setting off explosive devices with the intent of endangering life
 - Appeared before Westminster Magistrate Court
 - Plotting along with July 21st bombers to cause destruction and death
 - All suspects originally from Leeds
 - Meant to appear in court again later this month
- **Iraq Violence** –
 - Prince William has expressed his regret over the death of one of his Sandhurst colleagues in Basra two days ago. The soldiers died with three other British soldiers in a roadside bombing in Basra
 - Fierce clashes taking place in Diwaniyeh between US troops and members of the militia loyal to Muqtader Al Sadr
 - Expansion of the already on going operations in the rest of Iraq
- **Teacher's Union** – British largest teacher's union preparing for a one day strike to demonstrate against the Chancellor's decision not the increase public pay by two percent next year.
- **Gaza kidnapping** – Palestinian journalist are holding demonstrations to the demand the release of kidnapped BBC Journalist Alan Johnston
 - **“Almost every day now there is demonstration calling for Alan Johnston to be freed”** – Local journalist getting worried that Gaza is getting too dangerous to report from **à** thus preventing the Palestinian story from being told
 - Palestinian PM Haniyeh will be discussing a new security plan for Gaza later today– the plan will include steps to secure the release of Alan Johnston
- **White Easter** – Moscow facing snow storms and bad weather during its Easter festivities.

On BBC website headlines:

- *Iran seeks goodwill over captives*
- *Teenage boy dies in knife attack*
- *Rusedski retires after GB victory*
- *Israel' has Shalit exchange list'*
- *Teachers back pay strike ballot*

- *Court hearing for 7 July suspect*
- *Britishness lessons 'fuel racism'*
- *Diet clears drinking-arrest pilot*
- *Fresh protests for BBC reporter*

CNN (07/04/07):

Website:

- ***Sunk cruise ship: Officer charged***
- *US strikes suspected insurgents/ Prince mourns pal*
- *Iran seeks UK goodwill on sailors*
- *US envoy surprise Somalia trip*
- *3 charged over London bombings*
- *Passenger train hurtles through wildfire*
- *UEFA wants 'sport police force'*
- *Grimmest warning yet on climate change*
- *Peace group becomes house divided*
- *Space tourist ready for blastoff*
- *Girls school illness psychosomatic*
- ...

Notes 07/04/07:

- BBCWS only source to mention planned conference about Iraq in Egypt next month
 - o BBCWS Arabic also pays more attention to the on-going violence in Iraq, with both the BBC News 25 (+ international website) and CNN making only minor references to suicide bombings in Iraq
- CNN (and BBCWS) mentions Somalia in reference to the surprise visit held by a US envoy to the country to inspect the situation and attempt to encourage a ceasefire
- BBCWS and the English BBC report on the list of prisoners handed to the Israeli government by Egyptian mediators to facilitate exchange for held IDF soldier Shallit

08/04/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Website:

- ***Dozens killed in Almahmoudieh south of Baghdad***
 - 18 dead and 30 wounded as explosion rips through town 30 kms south of Baghdad
 - Missile also hit residential area – several wounded
 - Car had been filled with explosives and was aiming to strike in the industrial zone of the city – one apartment building was completely destroyed by the blast
 - Town positioned in the area known as the triangle of death and is a mixed Sunni and Shiite town
 - Another attack struck south-west of Baghdad killing 5 and wounding 6 others
 - 24 hour driving ban imposed as the country marks four years since the fall of – According to AP, General Kassim Moosa stated they are preventing terrorists from using demonstrators as an easy target
 - Thousands of Sadr followers demonstrated against the presence of Americans in Iraq – Al Sadr unlikely to appear in person
 - Roadside bomb kills four American soldiers and wounds another
 - Operation ‘Black Eagle’ underway to restore security to country – part of the bigger security operation taking place in the country
 - Few of the Al Sadr demonstrators were armed and some arrests were made according to the police

- ***Taliban kills Afghani translator of freed Italian journalist***
 - An Afghani translator working for an Italian news agency has been killed by the Taliban
 - Killed him because they had been denied the release of further Taliban prisoners by the Afghan government
 - Taliban release the journalist following the release of 5 Taliban terrorists – the driver had been killed in the attack
 - Translator was meant to be released as part of the deal made between the two yet the Taliban refused to release him and started making further demands – Afghan government refused to go any further
 - Afghan government has confirmed that they had given into some of the demands made by the Taliban in reference to the release of the Italian journalist but would not elaborate
 - Deal took place after intense discussions with the Italians
 - Anger and tension arose due to the fact that the Italian government gave into the demands of Taliban – second incident of its kind
 - Tensions bound to increase following the killing of his translator

- ***New list of Palestinian prisoners given in return for Shalit release***
 - Armed group that has claimed to hold soldier captive has given the Israelis a list of Palestinian names that they want in exchange
 - Capture occurred 10 months ago – list is meant to include 1500 names

- The new demands were handed to the Israelis by Egyptian mediators
- Peace process stalling due Shalit having not been released yet
- Egypt is attempting to help new Palestinian government emerge from the isolation it has been in since Hamas came to power – negotiations have increased in pace in recent weeks
- Egyptians hope to achieve good results for both sides
- In other news, Israeli soldiers have shot a young man after he stabbed 2 police men at a border checkpoint in the West Bank city of Hebron
- 17 year old had pulled out knife when they asked to search him and was thus shot in the lower body
- One of the soldiers sustained moderate wounds while the other was injured lightly
- 150,000 Palestinians live in Hebron as well as 400 Jewish settlers under very heavy security

BBC News 24 (08/04/07):

Main stories:

- Iraq Violence:

- Total ban on road traffic as Iraq prepares for the fourth anniversary of the fall of Hussein
- Violence marred the country killing dozens across Iraq including four Americans
- Supporters of Muqtader Al Sadr have arrived in Najaf to protest the continuous presence of Americans and British troops in Iraq
- Documentary on the demonstrations being prepared in Najaf:
 - § Interview with one of the protests (Member of the Students Union)
 - Plan on setting up a million people demonstrations
- Surge is taking its toll – 6 Americans died on Sunday but Iraqis were the real victims in various blasts such as the one in Dawiya
- 24 hour ban in an effort to avoid car bomb attacks

- Six Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan:

- Attack in Helmland province is the worst incident since 2005
- Clip of speech of Canadian PM Harper mourning the loss of the soldiers
 - § “Soldiers are defending us from those that are against democracy”

- UK/Iran diplomatic row:

- Iranian TV has aired new footage of the 15 sailors
- Footage show 15 captures navy marines playing chess and spending time together
- MoD has given the sailors permission to sell their story to the media
- Various clips of criticism towards MoD for allowing release of footage
 - § Officer in Charge Felix Carman – Doesn’t want to do it for the money – just wants to put the truth out in the open
 - § Leading seamen Faye Tourney is reported to have sold her story to the sun for a six figure sum

- “was stripped to her knickers” “feared she would never see her daughter again”

§ Admiral Sir Alan West and Michael Aston (father of killed in Iraq) criticise the decision (two other interviews with other officials also criticizing the decision) à UK military loses dignity when soldiers sell stories for money

- **Afghanistan** – Prodi condemns killing of reporter in Afghanistan
- **Ukrainian politics** – Row over fresh elections continue
- **Timor elections** - Preparing for its second election since its independence
 - o Documentary on the difficulties facing East Timor since independence
- **Anglican Church calls for immediate release of Alan Johnston**
 - o Anglican church calls for the immediate release of Alan Johnston
 - o Rev. Sentamu has called for the release in his Easter mass
- **N. Korea delegation**
 - o American delegation led by former American Ambassador to the UN Bill Richardson is in North Korea to ensure the release of the remains of American soldiers killed in the Korean War.
 - o Documentary on North Korean/US relations

On BBC website headlines:

- *Iraqi Shias prepare for protests*
- *E Timor holds presidential polls*
- *Nato troops killed in Afghanistan*
- *Iraq town attack leaves 18 dead*
- *Tokyo’s governor wins third term*
- *Taliban kill Afghanistan reporter*
- *Kurish rebels kill Turkey troops*
- *BBC man missing for four weeks*
- *Iran captives tell of murder fear*

CNN (08/04/07):

Headlines:

- **Voting in East Timor:**
 - o East Timor goes to polls for a new president –
 - o If none of 8 candidates get 50% there will be a run up – clashes last month between supporters of different candidates
- **NATO reports that seven of its troops have been killed in Afghanistan**
 - o Officials in Ontario have confirmed that six Canadian soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in Helmand province
 - o Another NATO soldier was killed in another roadside bombing, two others were wounded
- **Iraq violence:**
 - o Monday marks the fourth day of Baghdad’s fall
 - o All efforts to prevent car bombing being taken by police to prevent suicide bombings – amongst other things is a 24 hour ban on driving

- Muqtadar al Sadr has called for a demonstration in Najaf on Monday to mark the fall of Baghdad and oppose the American and British presence in Iraq
- **Criticism over troops being paid for their stories**
 - Faye Tourney has sold her story – telling of solitary confinement and having to fear her life
 - MoD and sailors have been criticized for taking money for their stories
- Greek state television has reported that captain blames strong sea currents for Thursday's accident which has left two French tourists missing

Website:

- *Al- Sadr followers head to rally*
- *Afghanistan: 7 NATO troops killed*
- *Pope: "Nothing positive" in Iraq*
- *East Timor votes for new president*
- *Captain blames sinking on currents*
- *Storm as UK sailors sell stories*
- *Freed Iranian: CIA tortured me*
- *Holy mackerel! Big fish bites man*
- *Pilot curses his own passengers*
- *Amazon swimmer braves piranhas*
- *American's nightmare in Nicaragua (video)*

Notes 08/04/07:

- All three sources predominantly report on developments in Iraq and violence in Afghanistan
 - BBCWS, however, does not mention the deaths of NATO troops in Afghanistan and only reports on the beheading of the translator of previously free Italian hostage

*** Due to lack of access to the internet for the day I was not able to listen to BBCWS Radio ***

09/04/2007

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **Iran: Proud of reaching breakthrough in uranium enrichment**
 - o US states this is the reason for the need of sanctions on Iran
- Four year anniversary of the fall of Baghdad as violence and tension increases across Iraq
- French celebrate Canadian support in WWII

Stories covered in-depth:

- **Iran Nuclear:**
 - o Iranian President Ahmedinajad has announced that his country won't allow the west to impose their values on its people
 - o Iran celebrating day of technology – the Iranian president visited a nuclear plant and announced that his country would not depend on others for fuel and energy
 - o Clip of speech outlining benefits and reasons for continuous uranium enrichment
 - o White House spokesperson has announced that the US is continuously worries by Iran's behaviour
 - o At a press conference the spokesman announced that it is precisely this reason why sanctions are imposed
 - o UK has also announced dismay at Iranian announcement and general behaviour
- Iraq violence:
 - o State of alert to mark four years since the fall of Baghdad
 - o Najaf witnessed demonstrations by supporters of Muqtadar Al Sadr
 - o Clip of demonstration
 - § Member of the demonstration – American presence is causing problems in Iraq
- Turkey/Kurds
 - o Turkish PM responds to threats made by Kurds in Northern Iraq
 - o Leader of the Kurds in northern Iraq Barizani made threats to Turkey not to attack Kurds in southern Turkey
 - o Urdugan stated that the threats made by them will apply to them if they don't respect their borders
 - o The Kurds should be aware of their position
- Palestine/Israel:
 - o Palestinian official has stated that Marwan Barghoutti (Head of Al Aksa group) is on the exchange list for kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Shallit

- 1,000 names on the list
- Palestinian Information Minister – No names have emerged of those that are on the list
- Missing BBC journalist:
 - Demonstrations held in London to demonstrate against the capture of BBC journalist Alan Johnston in Gaza a month ago
 - No side has claimed responsibility or requested ransom for his release

Website:

- ***Ahmadinajad – ‘Iran has started enriching uranium on an industrial scale’***
 - US has reacted to claim by stating its another sign Iran is not willing to cooperate with international community
 - US – Its getting harder to convince IAEA and UNSC that her nuclear programme is of peaceful nature
 - The Iranian president announced that Iran has joined the nuclear club and has started mass production of enriched uranium
 - In his speech he referred to Iran as a grand nation that has always been progressive and won’t allow an arrogant power to place hurdles on the way forward
 - Internal affairs won’t be decided by foreign power
 - The Iranian president stated that Iran will defend its rights till the end and that there is no way of stopping the progress
 - According to Ahmadinajad secret areas of the Natanz nuclear plant are producing uranium on an industrial scale
 - Iranian chief negotiator Larijani has stated that Iran is ready for negotiations with west over nuclear crisis à If more pressure is exerted Iran might have to leave the non-proliferation treaty
 - Agreements with Iran will not come with pressure, that will only create more pressure – According to Larijani Iran is willing to respond more seriously
 - Claims come after UNSC imposed 2 sets of sanctions on Iran
- ***Ministry of Defence prevents sailors from selling their stories***
 - MoD has announced decision till they are able to further revise main issues
 - Navy Admiral Adrian Jones says the issue has badly affected the whole military – them telling their story is acceptable, just not for money
 - Debate comes after Faye Turney sold her story for a 6 figure sum – according to her part of the money will go to a charity for soldier’s families
 - Some families criticises the decision as their children wouldn’t have taken personal benefit from their stories
 - Opposition from conservative official who demands an investigation into the matter
 - Despite criticism a lot of the workers in the ministry and soldiers agree with the decision – interest had been high and the info would get to the media in some manner

- Sun and ITV are standing by their programme
- Turney had told ITV that she didn't do it for money but wanted to ensure that everyone could hear her story
- *Urdugan – Barzani crosses line once again*
 - Turkish PM Urdugan warned Barzani following recent events
 - Urdugan – Kurds in Iraq should be more careful with what they say or they will be crushed by what they say
 - Barizani – If Turks get involved in Iraq, then the Kurds will get involved in Kurdish cities in S. Turkey
 - 8 Turkish soldiers and one Kurdish guard have been killed in recent violence in southern Turkey
 - 37,000 have been killed since 1984
 - Kurdish Labour Party is considered a terrorist organisation by Turkey, EU and the UN
 - Turkey has rejected ceasefire calls made by the group in October of last year

BBC News 24 (09/04/07):

Main stories:

- **Navy Crew media ban:**
 - Decision made by Defence Secretary Browne after criticism was growing that certain members of the group were selling their stories for money over the weekend
 - Today's tabloids are covered with stories of two of the sailors
 - § Last to be seen – Faye Turney claimed they threatened to kill her (clip of her speaking to ITV in interview)
 - § In a statement he
 - On the day they won their freedom was one four soldiers were killed
 - § Two parents of soldiers killed in Iraq complain that
 - § MoD insists they were acting in the best interest of the media – they had encouraged talking about it, not to sell their stories. The media wanted them to tell their story in their own words.
 - MoD still not satisfied with the outcome – Defence Secretary has announced that he is not satisfied and that they will further investigate the situation
 - Opposition parties – it is far too late to say you now that they can't sell their stories – it should have be
- **Iran nuclear:**
 - Iranian president Ahmadinajad has announced today that his country is now capable of enriching uranium on an industrial scale
 - § Statements were made at celebration of “Technology Day” (“Theatre meets nuclear”)
 - Iran has shown over and over again how strong it is
 - They have started producing uranium at an industrial scale

- § US and UK have made statements of worry about the developments
 - Some suggest that Iran is making these statements for political purposes
 - § Pro-government supporters have held demonstrations in front of the IAEA building
- Iraq Protest:
 - 100,000s have been demonstrating to mark the fall of Baghdad four years ago
 - Clip of demonstrations – chanting no to Americans
 - § They are heading the call of one of the most influential clerics in Iraq – Muqtadar Al Sadr
 - § “Demand the withdrawal of occupation forces – what they call the British and American troops
 - § Sadr has not been seen for months now
 - § Clip of statement made by
 - § Shiite cleric now regarded by the Americans as the single biggest threat to Iraq
- Teenage shooting:
 - 19 year old Asian male is in hospital after being shot in London
 - Fourth arrest made in the stabbing of a 14 year old teenager last week
- Krystal Hart murder:
 - Man has been charged with the murder of Krystal Hart
- School attainment:
 - More must be done to improve the grades of Black-Caribbean boys

On BBC website headlines:

- *Iran ‘enters new nuclear phase’*
- *Iraqi Shias protest in holy city*
- *Tourist’s spacecraft reaches ISS*
- *Warning over tsunami homeless*
- *Call for Brazil abortion debate*
- *Indian child abuse ‘common’*
- *Protest over Argentina death*
- *BBC man missing for four weeks*
- *BC cartoonists dies while drawing*
- ...

CNN (09/04/07):

Website:

- *UK bans military selling stories*
- *Iran: Nuclear program stepped up*
- *3 shot in Detroit office building*
- *Protesters mark Baghdad’s fall*
- *Bomb kills 6 Canadian troops*
- *Capture warship tour ‘unpleasant’*

- *Detainees on Gitmo hunger strike*
- *Space station welcomes billionaire*
- *Robot to search for missing*
- *Woodstock tackles global warming*
- *9-months-pregnant clerk shoots female robber*
- *'Potter' villainess not pleased by role*
- *Im species in world, and counting*
- *Woman sells all belongings on eBay*
- ...

Notes 09/04/07:

- Protest in Iraq and developments on the Iranian nuclear issue dominate all three sources of the news
 - o BBCWS Arabic again paying more attention to the speech given by Ahmadinajad – more sections of the speech translated into Arabic from Farsi
- BBCWS Arabic is the only provider to report on the rising tension between Kurdish factions in southern Turkey/northern Iraq on one side and the Turkish government on the other
- BBCWS refers to France's commemoration of Canadian victims who fought alongside French soldiers in WWII in its radio headline bulletin
 - o Taking that there is only three headlines, BBCWS places quite a lot of emphasis on story (which probably wasn't broadcast or reported on in a lot of places outside Canada and France)
 - o In my opinion, an indication of selective broadcasting to cater to the interest, political orientation (with Arabs in general having a more positive attitude in France), and demographics (large Arab population in France) of the consumer

10/04/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **Another explosion is heard in a Casablanca neighbourhood as security forces were able to prevent a suicide attack earlier in the day**
- US President George Bush states that Baghdad plan is finally starting to bear fruit
 - o Statements come as violence claims the life of 20 in Iraq and wounds at least 50
- South African President Mbeki visits Khartoum to discuss peace developments
 - o Will also discuss and review the role AU plays in keeping stability and peace in Darfur

Stories covered in-depth:

- **Explosions rock Casablanca**
 - o Eyewitnesses have told the BBC that a suicide bomber has blown himself up in a residential neighbourhood of Casablanca
 - o Tuesdays violence started as police were conducting search operations in Casablanca
 - o Moroccan police officials have said that two of the suspects were shot by security officials and the third blew himself up
 - o Report from Hassan Al Alawi from Rabat:
 - § Recounts the events of the operations
 - § One of the suspects identified as Mohammad Mentala
- Chad has admitted that it had clashes with Sudanese troops on Sudanese territory
 - o Reversing previous denial Chadian officials stated that their forces had perused rebels back into Sudan where Sudanese forces were protecting them
 - o These clashes come 10 days after 4 peacekeeping troops were killed in the area by suspected Janjaweed rebels
 - o Mathew Conoway – International delegation to Sudan – describes the destruction and killing he witnessed in those areas
- US President George Bush has announced that Baghdad plan seems to finally be bearing fruit
 - o Violence has decreased and Iraqis are cooperating with the coalition troops to sustain (control) armed individuals
 - o These comments come as five people were killed in an explosion at a check point. Tuesday also saw a woman suicide bomber kill herself and 17 Iraqi police recruits north of the capital

- Palestinian PM Haniyeh has stated that his group is serious about reaching an agreement for a prisoner swap with Israel
 - o Haniyeh said that Israel was going to have to swap Shalit for hundreds of Palestinians kept in Israeli jails
 - o Clip of the statements made by PM Haniyeh
 - § The ball is now on the Israeli side of the court – it is Israel’s time to act
 - § Israel has to respond to the suggested swap proposed by the “Palestinian nation”
 - o The office of Israeli PM Olmert has reacted by stating that it was “disappointed” with the list of prisoners Palestinians want in exchange for the soldier
 - § PM Olmert spokesperson stated that the PM not interested in such a swap

- Journalists in Afghanistan have reacted to the killing of Ajmal Naqshabandi by the Taliban
 - o Demonstrations were held by the journalists
 - o Naqshabandi was kidnapped along with an Italian reporter – Taliban stated it had killed him after the government failed to release several prisoners

Website:

- ***Chad admits its forces had entered and operated in Sudanese territory***
 - o Chad admits to entering Sudan and engaging Sudanese troops in fire fights
 - o Chad claims its troops were following rebels and were confronted by Sudanese troops
 - o Sudan states that the Chadian army killed 17 of its soldiers and that the Sudanese government had summoned the Chadian ambassador in Khartoum
 - o First time the armies of the two countries have faced each other amidst rising tensions
 - o Governments accuse each other of supporting rebels
 - o Regions on the border have similar ethnic structures – Tensions still high despite several peace agreements
 - o Officials at refugee camp state that more than 400 have been killed by Sudanese rebels in Chad
 - o Chad initially denied crossing the border – A Chadian official stated that the Chadian troops were shocked to find the Sudanese troops supporting the rebels
 - o Chad denies that it was an intentional attack
 - o Sudan claims 8 tanks and hundred of soldiers had entered two kms into Sudanese territory
 - o Stand-off left many rebels dead and 8 Chadian soldiers also died
 - o BBC correspondent in the region – Area has an explosive compilation of armed groups
 - o UNRWA official – number of killed still not known because there might be mass graves

- Arab militias are reported to have burned houses in Eastern Chad – bodies have also been found
 - Fighting in Darfur has been going on for years before spreading into Chad
 - 120,000 Chadian rebels are living in camps that already house 200,000 Sudanese refugees
 - Article reminds the reader that the Chadian PM comes from Zoghaoa tribe which is targeted by the Janjaweed militia (supported by Sudan)
 - Chad denies supporting rebels and accuses Sudan – Khartoum denies accusations
 - UN has planned to send 11,000 peace keeping troops to Sudanese/Chadian border
- *15 killed in female suicide blast in Makdadiah*
- 15 killed when woman blew herself up outside police station
 - Police – Woman blew herself up amongst group of recruits – explosives had been hidden under traditional robe
 - US announced the death of 3 soldiers killed in Baghdad
 - Another soldier injured in explosion during search operation
 - 3 US soldiers had been killed in explosions on Saturday
 - 3280 Americans have died in Iraq since the start of the conflict
 - US forces in operations to secure Baghdad – facing elements of the Mehdi army
 - Iraqi police – US helicopter downed in Baghdad
 - Areas of fighting have been closed off by forces
 - 1 dead and 14 injured in the fighting as it also disturbed traffic
 - Helicopter crashed after being hit by small arms fire – returned safely to base
 - Iraqi PM Maliki is going to Egypt this month to talk to Hosni Mubarak and Amr Mousa – meeting comes 2 weeks before planned conference for Iraq in Egypt
 - Announcement of trip came as Maliki was visiting Japan for four days – during his trip he stated that there is no need for a timeline for US forces to leave, but that Iraqis are working as hard as possible to ensure it
 - To ask troops to leave is a democratic right but Iraq has to be ready
 - Sadr followers are protesting the fall of Baghdad
- Somali Speaker – More than a 1000 people killed in Mogadishu violence
- Hawieh group speaker has said that more than 1000 people have been killed and 4000 injured in Mogadishu
 - Battles started between armed Islamists and tribes who support the Hawieh group on one hand and Ethiopian and Somali troops on the other
 - In Eritrea, Sheikh Ahmad of the former Somali government denies support Islamists
 - Human rights group has reported that fighting had concentrated on area around stadium and the southern suburbs of the capital
 - Members of the transitional government have toured and viewed the damage inflicted by fighting

- US envoy has accused Eritrea of supporting Islamists in Somalia – also called for a ceasefire
- EU representatives have asked for an investigation to be launched to determine whether Ethiopian and government forces committed war crimes
- It is expected that the leaders will continue talks towards a ceasefire
- Some worries about renewed fighting after reports that both sides are entrenching their positions in the capital

BBC News 24 (10/04/07):

Main stories:

- **Embryo decision** – Woman has lost an appeal to use the embryos she had frozen before she became infertile to cancer to cancer
 - Her appeal in front of the European Human Rights Court in Luxembourg is her last legal option to opposing the decision
 - Frozen embryos cannot be used without her ex-partners consent
- **Iran Row:**
 - It initially seemed that Downing Street was going to refuse to give information on whether Tony Blair had something to do with allowing the 15 returned marines to sell their story
 - That has now been turned around – Blair had nothing to do making the decision. Defence Secretary Browne, although not making the decision himself, knew of the decision and could have blocked it à question arises whether Tony Blair was aware of it (could have also blocked it)
 - Inability to determine who had made this decision comes after a wave of opposition to the stance taken by the MoD – the MoD has since then blocked any of the 15 from selling their story as they review the decision of whether they would be allowed to sell their story
 - It seems to be that no one was in charge of the decision which allowed these returned sailors to sell their story
 - Iran has announced that it will release a video depicting the 15 men in captivity over the 13 days – The British sailors, or the “aggressors” as the Iranians call them, will be shown being detained, held and questioned.
- **Paedophile monitoring** – Home Office has decided against using British version of Americas Megan Law which would give single parents access to information from a paedophile database
- **Teenager Stabbing** – A 19 year old teenager has become the latest victim to knife violence in London
- **Krystal Hart murder** – Man had appeared in court on charges of killing Krystal Hart
- **Diet Report** - Report has indicated that most diets do not work – a 1/3 to 2/3s of people put on more weight after the stop dieting
- **Global Warming** – Scientist have stated the most affected regions will be the polar caps – Documentary film on the affects this will have on the Inuit people in those regions
- **US – Chinese Trade dispute** – The US has decided to take a row over China’s inability to crack down on counterfeit products to the WTO

- **U.K. Independent Party** – UKIP launches its campaign à largest campaign in the history of the party

On BBC website headlines:

- ***Jail for Serb video death squad***
- *Ethiopia admits terror detentions*
- *Woman loses final embryo appeal*
- *'Hijacker seizes Turkish plane'*
- *Chad admits battle inside Sudan*
- *Australia to double Afghan force*
- *Russian doubts over Iran claims*
- *'Woman' bomber hits Iraq police*
- *Madona heads UK Live Earth bill*
- ...

CNN (10/04/07):

Website:

- ***Bush seeks talks on war funding***
- *Turk police quiz hijacking suspect*
- *2 die as Casablanca attack stopped*
- *US hits China over policy*
- *N. Korea warned over nuke weapons*
- *Iran vows to expand nuclear plans*
- *Serbs jail Srebrenica death squad*
- *Detroit office shooter targeted 2*
- *Judging candidates by book covers*
- *Shanghai high-rise opens old wounds*
- *Huge concert on climate awareness*
- *Radio host suspended over comments*
- *Globe-trotting gamer blasts rival*
- *Maquire: Unsure about 'Spider-Man 4'*

Notes 10/04/07

- The structure and order of the news stories is entirely different today for the three news providers. BBCWS gives (as the only news provider) quite detailed news reports concerning Somalia, Chad/Sudan, Iraq and the explosions that struck Morocco
 - o BBC international website in English also featured article on Chad/Sudan clashes
 - o CNN makes no mention of violence in Iraq – on BBC News 24 it was not featured either but the international website carried an article
 - o BBCWS Arabic provides detailed account of the developments in Somalia – other two news providers make no mention of them
 - o Main story on BBCWS Radio dealt with the explosions in Moroccan capital Rabat, on the other hand BBC international and BBC News 24 make no mention of the failed attacks.

11/04/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **Two explosions rock Algiers killing at least 23 people and wounding dozens**
- Amnesty International has warned that human rights in Egypt have worsened as a result of the constitutional amendments last month
- US army in Iraq has accused Iran of supplying armed individuals with weapons and training them how to use it
- Kiev witnesses mass protests staged by supporters of the PM one on hand and the president on the other

Stories covered in-depth:

- **Algiers explosions:**
 - o “In a reminder of the violence that gripped Algiers in the 90s, the group ‘Al Qaeda in the Maghreb’ has taken responsibility for three explosions which shook the capital killing at least 23 people and wounding 160
 - o Explosions targeted prime ministers office and police station in a neighbourhood close to the airport
 - o Algerian PM has stated that these attacks were carried out by terrorists and cowards – pointed out the need to work together to secure Algeria
 - o Clip of speech given by PM
 - o Islamist group in Algeria known as Al Qaeda in the Maghreb took responsibility for the attacks
- S.A. President in Sudan:
 - o On his visit to Sudan, the South African president Mbeki has stated that he believes that there is signs that Khartoum is willing to find a national solution for the problems in Darfur
 - o South African president travelled country before returning to Khartoum to meet with President Bashir
 - o Mbeki is hoping to get Sudan to allow more African Union troops to monitor and stabilize the situation in Darfur
- Palestine/EU:
 - o Palestinian Finance Minister Fayyad has urged international community to resume financial aid to the Palestinian government
 - o Stated that Palestinian government was in need of 1 billion euros in aid
 - o Comments came at a meeting between European Commissioner for External Affairs Benita Ferrero-Waldner and Fayyad in Brussels
 - o Clip of statement made by Waldner – Possible re-engagement does not indicate an immediate renewal of all ties – warned that financial aid was not going to start flowing in overnight
- Iraq:

- US army in Iraq has accused Iran of training Iraqi insurgents in the use of roadside bombs – a lot of the components used by insurgents produced in Iran as well
- Comments were made at press conference with US military officials – trains them in how to assemble bombs, produce components and how to use them
- Kyrgyzstan demonstrations:
 - 1000s of people have gathered in the capital of Kyrgyzstan to demonstrate against – have gathered from across the country in the capital Bishkek
 - Calling for early presidential elections and constitutional reforms – demonstrators are accusing the current president of corruption
 - Important to remember that Kyrgyzstan is the only central Asian country to host an American airbase – used for NATO troops in Afghanistan
- Morocco/West Sahara:
 - Morocco has handed a plan to the UN to suggest a way to resolve the three decade old dispute over Western Sahara
 - Plan envisages some form of autonomy while remaining part of the Moroccan Kingdom
 - Minister of Information in Morocco stated that the plan is intended to bring both sides of the conflict closer

Website:

- ***23 dead and tens wounded in explosions in Algiers***
 - Two strong explosions hit the Algerian capital on Wednesday
 - First was in a car that exploded at the entrance to government complex which houses the Prime Ministers office and the Interior Ministry
 - Shortly later the second explosion hit each of the capital near the airport
 - Algerian PM – ‘Algerian people should do what’s best for the country and reach out their hands out towards that common goal
 - PM – ‘ Criminal and cowardly act which can only be termed as a mistake
 - No one has claimed responsibility for the blast that also injured 82
 - Worst attack in a series of smaller incidents that have plagued the country in recent months
 - Algerian government had announced last August that those individuals that lay down their arms and surrender will receive amnesty
- ***Seniora asks UN to structure court***
 - Lebanese PM Seniora has handed a letter to the UN asking to structure the court to try those being investigated in the Hariri killing
 - Seniora trying to end stand-off and parliament is meant to approve if it votes
 - Head of the Parliament Biri is refusing to call on parliament to hold vote
 - Opposition afraid the court would be used against them
 - PM sent the letter after the parliament had sent a similar request a week ago

- Issue of court has caused political tension unseen since the civil war which ended in 1990
- Senior supporters claim that the opposition, including Hizbollah, is attempting to block court to cover for Syria
- Syria claims that it has no involvement in Lebanon and points to the report of the head of the UN investigation who pointed to the cooperation being presented by Damascus

News clips:

- Video looks at the violence plaguing Iraq:
 - Disturbing street life in Iraq
 - After four years no solution in sight
 - Chief of Red Cross in Iraq states that it is obvious that Iraqi civilian are carrying the brunt of this conflict
 - Red Cross has reiterated its commitment to improving situation in Iraq

- Video looks at attacks in Algerian capital:
 - First explosion targeted prime ministers office and the other targeted a police station killing at least 33 people
 - Looks at destruction caused to building and street by the first explosion that killed 8 people
 - Second explosion shook police station near the international airport
 - Algerian president has called the attacks cowardly – clip of speech
 - Explosions injured 80 others

BBC News 24 (11/04/07):

Main stories:

Breaking News – US troops – US tours of duty to last 15 months not 12

- Referring to those troops in Afghanistan and Iraq
- Sections of news conference held by US Secretary of Defence Gates
- Interview with Washington Correspondent Adam Brookes
 - Until now US army forces deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan used to serve a year and then go home – now they will be serving 15 months (however, this will ensure at least 12 months break) à only army soldiers
 - Why is this happening? – essentially because the US troops are stretched
 - Political fallout might be softened by political credibility of Robert Gates (democrats controlling senate and congress)

- **Navy crew media row:**
 - PM Tony Blair has stated today that with hindsight it was not the best of ideas to allow the kidnapped sailors to sell their stories to the media
 - Comments came as Defence Secretary Browne took full responsibility for the blunder in comments he made earlier in the day

- **Iraq violence:**

- US has accused Iran of training insurgents in Iraq in the use of roadside bombs
- At a news conference US military officials showed what they claimed to be weapons produced in Iran used by Iraqi insurgents
- **Algerian Explosions:**
 - Reports are indicating that Al Qaeda has taken responsibility for the bombings which killed 22 in the Algerian capital today
 - Algerian PM has called the act a cowardly, criminal and disgusting act
- **Social trends survey:**
 - One in four children now living with one parent
 - Poor children have more mental disorders – child poverty is rising
 - Need to address level of safety net and family incomes to ensure welfare of families
 - Population set to rise to 67 million by 2031 (83% is going to be as a result of immigration) – 200 houses have to be built every day for new immigrants
 - Interviews and reports on issues of child poverty, etc.
- **Methadone Baby death** – Mother admits killing baby. Father was cleared of charged
- **New Wembley Stadium** – England to play Brazil in their first match at the new Wembley on 1 June the football association has announced
- **Dog attack death** - Grandmother and uncle of 5 year old girl mauled to death by pit-bull have appeared in court. Girl had been mauled to death on New Years day but the uncles pit-bull

On BBC website headlines:

- *Navy deal not good idea – Blair*
- *Explosion rock Algerian capital*
- *Breaking news – US extends troops’ tour of duty*
- *21/7 suspect’s claim ‘is amazing’*
- *Sainsbury’s takeover plan over*
- *Citigroup plans 17,000 job cuts*
- *Baby killed with methadone*
- *Blair urges action against gangs*
- *Outrage at Indian menstrual form*
- ...

CNN (04/04/07):

Main stories:

- **Algerian bomb blasts:**
 - At least 24 killed and more than 200 wounded in Algiers bombs
 - Fears that violence which plagued the capital in the 90s is coming back
 - First explosion struck governmental HQ in Algiers and the second one targeted a
 - Group that recently changed its name to show solidarity with Al Qaeda claimed responsibility for the attacks

- **War in Iraq**
 - o US – Iran is training insurgents to use EFPs
 - o Bush administration looking for “war tsar” to overlook the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq
 - o US has extended duty from 12 to 15 months
- **War on terror**
 - o Tends to be used as a reason for Iraq conflict and other operations by US and UK governments
 - o New report indicates that these actions have increased the chances of terror attacks, rather than decrease it
 - o Concept of war on terror using military means mainly is actually counter-productive
 - o British report states that the war on terror has been a complete failure – instead of curbing violence it is giving extremists groups new recruits
 - o US and UK governments are expected to stick to the stance that the war on terror is keeping their security yet (expert opinion) is that Iraq might be the reason that it fails – too much to carry
 - o Report – Iraq breeds new Al Qaeda recruits
 - o Terrorists have already penetrated from war zones into Europe
- **Germany’s horse whisperer** – report on a woman in Germany and her ability to communicate with her horse
- **Iranian government accusations:**
 - o Iran accuses CIA of torturing man in Iraq
 - o Iranian had been released last week after months of detention in Iraq
 - o CIA denies any involvement with the abduction or imprisonment of the man
 - o CIA denies any accusations of torture
- **War in Afghanistan**
 - o Witnesses have reported that a suicide bomber has attacked a NATO convoy in Kandahar
 - o 100s gathered in Kabul to mourn the death of translator killed by Taliban in Afghanistan
 - § New video shows mock execution of the Italian reporter, execution of driver
 - § Move of getting Italian released by releasing Taliban prisoners has been criticized especially as the translator was meant to be freed with the Italian journalist – why is Italian life cherished more
- **N. Korea**
 - o Macau Bank to release frozen funds which it froze years ago on charges N. Korea had made the money through money laundering
 - o Move might re-start nuclear talks with N. Korea
- **Jerusalem Post:** IAF nearly shot down US passenger plane when the plane had not responded on its way into Tel Aviv – IAF had sent four planes to investigate the situation

Website:

- *Al Qaeda group claims deadly bombs*
- *US: Iran trains Iraqis on guns*
- *Father: Sole custody of Smith baby*

- *Human error sunk 'cruise ship'*
- *Former PM charged with murder*
- *UK minister regrets sailor stories*
- *Suicide attack on NATO convoy*
- *Sarkozy denies alleged Chirac deal*
- *Rapper in Cuba trashes justice*
- *PM to donate pay rise amid furore*
- *Thief loses false leg in getaway*
- *Grand disaster for runaway piano*
- *Ticking clock counts seconds till Bush is gone*
- ...

Notes 11/04/07

- Nearly all news providers feature the explosions in the Algerian capital as their leading news story
 - o Different headings to the story
 - § CNN à *Al Qaeda group claims deadly bombs*
 - § BBC English website à *Explosion rock Algerian capital*
 - § BBCWS website à *23 dead and tens wounded in explosions in Algiers*
 - § BBC News 24 (only provider not to cover it as its lead story) à *“Algiers Explosion – Group Linking itself to Al Qaeda claims responsibility for the attacks in the Algerian*
- BBCWS provides in quite an extensive radio broadcast (*most extensive I have seen since I started this project*) stories on Morocco/West Sahara, Palestine/EU, Kyrgyzstan, Egypt, Lebanon, Ukraine and Sudan à all stories which are not featured by the other service providers
- Only story covered in common (apart from the lead story) are the violence in Iraq
- CNN features a story on a British report (Oxfam – I believe) which coins the war on terror (both US and UK operations) as counterproductive and a failure à no mention of this report on BBC

12/04/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **In a new level of violence, a suicide bomber blows him up in the Iraqi parliament killing at least 8 others and injuring many more**
- Tensions and violence in Morocco and Algeria as analysts see cooperation between North African terror groups and Al Qaeda
- US Deputy Secretary of State to arrive in Sudan for talks over situation in the western province in Darfur and a possible increase in African peace keeping forces to ensure stability
- Palestinian President Abbas has assured the BBC that signs seem to indicate the missing BBC journalist is well

Stories covered in-depth:

- **Iraq Parliament Blast:**
 - o In the most infiltrating attack into the administrative area of Baghdad, a suicide bomber has blown himself up in the cafeteria of the Parliament building
 - o Explosion killed 8 people including three minister of parliament
 - o President Bush has stated that (clip of speech) – he strongly condemns the attack and that it serves as a reminder that people are willing to kill innocent people and attack symbol of democracy – that is why it is important to continue monetary support and support for the democracy in general
- Iraq violence:
 - o 8 people were killed and many others injured in an explosion on a bridge in the south of Baghdad
- Kidnapped journalist:
 - o UN Secretary General Ban Ki- Moon has made an appeal for the release of missing BBC journalist Alan Johnston
 - o Comments come on the day that the BBC participated with international news agencies to launch an appeal for the release of Johnson – worked with Sky, CNN, and Al Jazeera international
 - o Johnston was kidnapped a month ago
 - o Head of BBC in West Bank has announced that he had been informed by Palestinian President Abbas that information indicates that Johnston is well
 - § Clip of speech made by Mark Thompson BBC Chief) in Ramallah – met with Abbas yesterday and was informed that Alan is well and that all is being done to secure release
 - o Mustafa Barghouti, Palestinian Information Minister, stated that the comments made by President Abbas are very likely the truth and everything is being done by the Palestinian government to secure the release of Johnston

- Palestine aid:
 - o Norway has indicated that it is willing to resume aid to the Palestinian Authority soon and expects to provide around \$100 million in total aid to it this year
 - o Comments came during a meeting between the Finance Ministers of the two countries
- Iran nuclear:
 - o UAEA chief Baradei in Riyadh – Iran is in the early stages of enriching uranium and that the issue is not amount produced but intention of use
- Sudan:
 - o US Deputy Secretary of State Negroponte has arrived in Sudan in an attempt to encourage an increase in the number of peace keepers in Darfur
 - o His trip comes amongst a wave of other diplomatic efforts to convince Sudan to allow more African peace keepers into the province
- Senegal/ African Union:
 - o Senegal has threatened to withdraw troops from African Union peace keeping force if they are not supplied with sufficient equipment
- Turkey/Kurds:
 - o Turkish military chief asked government on Thursday to approve a cross-border incursion into northern Iraq to crack down on guerillas attacking Turkey from that area

Website:

- ***Bush denounces explosion in Iraqi parliament***
 - o American President Bush has denounced the explosion in the Iraqi parliament which killed at least 3 ministers of parliament
 - o Bush – ‘ It is a reminder that people are willing to kill in the very symbol of Iraq that represents 12 million Iraqis
 - o The explosion killed 8 and wounded 23
 - o Police – ‘Bomber blew himself up at entry of cafeteria’ – happened at the end of meeting and beginning of lunch
 - o In another incident an explosion over a bridge caused it to collapse – 10 people killed and 16 wounded
 - o Explosions come as security plan is underway
 - o Parliament is the most protected building in Iraq – police dogs are used to sniff for explosives, following all pre-cautions and the security plan is occurring around the area
 - o Member of Parliament representing Sunni group killed in the attack according to AP
 - o First suicide attack but frequented by rockets and the MPs are assassinated on a regular basis
 - o US – None of their personnel was injured and an investigation is underway
 - o Truck loaded with explosives destroyed the Al Sarafieh bridge
 - o Police attempted cars that had plunged into the Tigris river
 - o Bridge was attacked during morning rush hour

- Security sources said the bridge collapsed as a result of one explosion but on pictures published by AP indicate at least two areas of impact
 - Article features two witnesses to the explosion destroying the bridge
 - Tigris River splits Baghdad into two – with Sunnis predominantly living on one side and Shiite on the other
 - Bridge had been built in 1920s by the British and was destroyed once before in 1991
 - Security checks exist to protect most of these bridges
 - On-going security operation is seen as last attempt to prevent civil war
 - US – ‘For three months the number of dead in Baghdad has decreased but there has been an increase everywhere else
 - BBC correspondent – Security crackdown seems to be failing as Baghdad witnesses daily violence
- *Al Baradei – Iran is still in early stage of enrichment*
 - IAEA Chief - Iran still in its early stages of uranium enrichment and that it is the motivation behind the production that is important not the production
 - Al Baradei spoke in Riyadh and said Iran is in the founding stage – worry not about production but whether it will be used for electricity or nuclear weapons
 - Statements come as Iran has decreased its cooperation with the IAEA due to sanctions imposed on it by the UN
 - The sanctions forbid the export of weapons and freezes the accounts of those involved in the nuclear project and missile development
- *Turkish army requests to launch a military operation in northern Iraq*
 - Requesting military operation against armed members of Kurdish Labour party
 - Government would still have to debate the request and give the army the mandate to do such operations
 - 10 Turkish soldiers killed in fighting with Kurds in last few days
 - Turkey has made requests to the US and Iraqi governments to do something about the 4000 armed Kurds in northern Iraq
 - Turkey states that if they fail to curb the problem, it will be its right to do something about it
 - Ankara was outraged when Barizani threatened to get active in southern Turkey if Turkey continued entering northern Iraq
 - Turkish government feared that Kurds will target tourist destinations in Turkey as they have done in the past
 - More than 30,000 people have been killed since Kurdistan announced its war of independence in 1984

News clips:

- Video looks at the bomb explosion that targeted bridge in Baghdad:
 - Blast destroyed the bridge plunging at least ten people to their death and injuring others
 - Police – Divers attempting to recover any bodies from cars that plunged into the Tigris river

- Attack came during morning rush hour
- At least 6 cars plunged into Tigris
- The river splits Baghdad into two and is usually used by civilians travelling between the two
- Usually there are various checkpoints set up at these bridges
- Attack comes two months into the security crack down launched by American and Iraqi forces to decrease violence in capital and surrounding areas
- Video looks at the developments surrounding kidnapped BBC journalist Alan Johnson
 - Clip of speech given by Regional Head of BBC – Mark Thompson
 - § Had met with President Abbass who assured him everything was being done to secure the release of BBC journalist Johnston
 - § Abbass also said there was credible evidence to believe that Alan was well
 - § Calls on his friends and colleagues to do everything possible to get him released
 - Clip of speech given by father – Jeremy Johnston
 - § Calls upon captives to release him
 - § Think of the situation of the family
 - § Asks to release him immediately
 - § Prays his son is well and keeping strong

BBC News 24 (12/04/07):

Main stories:

- **Iraq violence:**
 - Iraq parliament blast kills at least 8 people (clip of explosion striking while law maker is interviewed) – one of Iraq
 - Blast caused by suicide bomber who has entered the cafeteria of the parliament building packed with explosives
 - Attack comes within ‘Green Zone’ in Iraq – by far the most serious breach of security
 - Short film on the sequence of events in Baghdad:
 - § Bomber struck at lunch time in a packed cafeteria inside the Parliament building
 - § “Struck at the very heart of Iraq’s fledgling democracy”
 - § 2 Iraqi MPS amongst the dead and many other injured by blast
 - § Truck bomb destroys one of the most important bridges destroyed in the capital – cars plummeted into Tigris – two checkpoints on each side of the bridge
 - § Clip of Bush’s comments – “It reminds us that there is an enemy willing to bomb innocent people and a symbol of democracy”
- British soldier death:
 - The bodies of the four British killed in Iraq have been flown home

- Soldiers were killed by a road side bomb near Basra a week and a half ago
- Documentary on the four soldiers killed in Iraq
- Capsized vessel
 - Oilrig support ship capsizes 100 miles off the coast of Shetland in the North Sea
 - 5 people believed to be captured inside hull of ship
 - Divers are being flown to scene of accident
- Missing BBC Journalist
 - One month after his capture, a world wild day of action for his release
 - Families and colleagues make an appeal through a special televised programme to draw attention to his plight (BBC, CNN, Sky, and Al Jazeera all aired a special live programme on Alan Johnston's kidnapping & also want to highlight the increasing dangers to their lives
 - In London, Alan's family makes an appeal for his
 - Another demonstration takes place calling for his release – questionable how quick the issue can be resolved
 - Little law and order in Gaza – turmoil makes it difficult to see how the kidnapping will be resolved quickly – BBC Director, after meeting with President Abbas, has announced that he has been informed that Alan Johnston seems to be well according to reports
- Fatal Stabbing:
 - Seventh teenager arrested in stabbing incident that killed 14 year old teenager in London
- Deportation Protest:
 - Two people arrested in demonstrations outside an immigrations office in the Midlands to protest the deportation of asylum seeks

On BBC website headlines:

- *Explosion at Iraq parliament café*
- *Pakistan army joins tribal fight*
- *UN chief urges release of BBC man*
- *Iran enrichment 'in early stages'*
- *Deaths in Uganda forest protest*
- *Wolfowitz apology over pay row*
- *Date set for Bob Woolmer inquest*
- *Liberia shuts 'hide out' cemetery*
- *Beatles settle EMI royalties row*
- ...

CNN (12/04/07):

Website:

- *Iraqi parliament attack kills 8*
- *Six missing after tugboat capsizes*
- *Algeria on alert after bomb blasts*

- *Moroccan terror cell suspect held*
- *Turkish forces battle Kurd rebels*
- *German MP defends Nazi-era judge*
- *BBC appeal over kidnapped reporter / Behind the scenes*
- *Shock jock fired for racist slur*
- *Wife 'shot abusive minister'*
- *Dems: Bush aides lying on e-mails*
- *Author Kurt Vonnegut dies at 84*
- *T. Rex thigh reveals chicken ties*
- *Woman 'cut up rival with chainsaw'*
- *2,000 stolen wedding gowns seized*
- ...

Notes 12/04/07

- BBCWS Arabic and CNN feature stories on the deteriorating relations between Kurdish elements in northern Iraq and Turkey
- For the first time all three news sources carry a story on the developments surrounding and the fate of kidnapped BBC journalist Alan Johnson
- In radio news broadcast BBCWS covers stories on Sudan (US envoy visiting), Senegal and the African Union and developments on easing restrictions on aid to the Palestinians à stories not covered by other providers

13/04/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **Lawmakers and Ministers of Parliament met in a session in Baghdad today to highlight that they stand united in the face of the type of violence they witnessed yesterday and that they will remain defiant**
- Deputy Secretary of State Negroponte presses the need for more African peacekeepers in Sudan
- In a special BBC interview the new Mauritanian president has outlined his main goals for his term and how he aims to achieve them à More can be heard after the headlines
- A member of the Somali government has accused Ethiopian troops of genocide since they have been in the country since December
- 35 Taliban members killed in NATO operation in the south of Afghanistan

Stories covered in-depth:

- **Iraq Parliament Blast:**
 - o The Iraqi Parliament has met in an emergency session to discuss the violence that struck the Parliament building yesterday
 - o Parliament has reiterated that they will not tolerate such terrorist attacks in their country and will do everything possible to restore security and stability to Iraq
 - o Session was started with a minute to commemorate the 8 killed in attack that struck the Parliament yesterday
 - o The US has announced that investigation has been launched to determine how the suicide bomber was able to reach the security precautions surrounding the Green Zone
 - o Short interview with US army official Christopher Garber (translated)
 - § Green zone cannot be 100% safe
 - § Is one of the most important neighbourhoods of Baghdad and is therefore naturally attracts violence
 - o Iraq group known as 'Al Qaeda in the land of the two rivers' has claimed responsibility for the attack
- UN/Lebanon:
 - o The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has announced that he will be sending his chief lawyer to solve impasse on setting up tribunal in Lebanon
 - o Tribunal aims to put on trial those responsible for the death of former Lebanese PM Rafik Hariri
 - o Chief UN legal Counsel Nicholas Mechel will go to Beirut to clarify all concerns one may have towards the court
 - o The government of PM Hariri supports the establishment of the court while the opposition (close to Syria) is against it

- Has been impossible to get Parliament to agree on the form and nature of the tribunal to be established
- Sudan/US
 - US Deputy Secretary of State Negroponte is in Sudan to pressure the government to allow more peace keeping troops into Darfur
 - President Bashir has met with the official – visit comes amongst increased international pressure to resolve the crisis in Sudan
- Somalia Violence:
 - Former parliament speaker in the Somalia Hussein Aden has accused Ethiopian forces of committing genocide since their arrival in Mogadishu in December
 - Ethiopia has denied any claims of genocide and said its troops are only keeping security in the capital
 - Thousands have fled the capital since fighting broke out between Ethiopian forces on one side and opposition militias and armed Islamists on the other
- Palestinian economic crisis:
 - Oxfam, a UK charity, has release a report stating that there is a risk of ‘failed state’ characteristics if suspension of direct aid continues
 - International suspension of funds comes as a result of Hamas’s victory in elections in Gaza and the West Bank

Website:

- ***Iraqi Parliament holds emergency session in defiance of the explosion that rocked it on Thursday***
 - Session was held in defiance on attack which killed some MPs and left many more injured
 - Speaker of the parliament Mashadani – Sign that terrorists are attempting to prevent the democratic progress in Iraq
 - Chair of killed MP Mohamad Oud of the National Sunni Party had flowers placed on it
 - Americans claim Oud was the only MP killed while the governments claims of the 8 killed, 3 were MPs
 - Conflicting reports emerging from various sides including AP indicating different numbers of MPs killed in the explosion
 - On the internet, a group known as Al Qaeda in the Land of two Rivers has taken responsibility for the attack
 - § Statement read that the attack was to uncover the lies of the surge being conducted by American and Iraqi forces
 - American President George Bush has announced that America continues to stand by the Iraqi government and people in its struggle towards democracy
 - § Attacks are an indication that attackers are willing to attack anything and kill innocent people in the process
 - Explosion in the parliament come as American forces are attempting to improve security in the capital

- BBC Correspondent in Baghdad – Theories emerging that the bomber was a bodyguard of one of the MPs
 - § Area is meant to be of the most secure areas in Baghdad
 - § Not known how the bomber got passed security checkpoints around Green Zone
 - § Security has also been run by private firms – a move which has been criticized in light of the bombing
- Iraqi president Maliki has condemned the attack and said it won't put Iraq off its path towards security
- Rice – “It is not correct to discredit American operation due to attack – there is always going to be days which are worse and more violent than others”
- *Israeli army suspends general using Palestinians as human shields*
 - IDF has announced that it has suspended the operations of the individual in charge of the operations that saw Palestinian youths used as human shields in an area west of Nablus
 - Videos documented that Israeli soldiers used these men as shields for most of the last week to protect them from stones being hurled at them
 - IDF is investigating the incident
 - Actions have been highly criticized by Palestinian and Israeli human rights groups and watchdogs
- *Sezer – Secular system in Turkey in danger*
 - Turkish President Ahmad Ceasar has warned that its only a matter of time before his country is faced with aspects of radical Islamism
 - Comments came as part of a “farewell speech” before his term is meant to end next month
 - § Came after similar comments from a powerful military chief last Thursday
 - Sezer and the rest of Turkey's secular elite, which includes the army generals and judges, fear Erdogan, a former Islamist, will become president and then try to undermine Turkey's strict separation of state and religion.

News clips:

- Video of Palestinian youths in Nablus:
 - Short video showing two Palestinian youths sitting on an Israeli military jeep to act as human shields from stone throwers
 - § Film shows camera man asking Israeli forces whether the men were being detained. Israelis respond by asking him to turn off his camera and stop taking pictures of their military but he responds by saying he is in a civilian area
- Video of explosion rocking Iraqi parliament
 - Iraqi parliament faced up to terrorism on Friday by holding a special session in light of the explosion that shook the parliament yesterday
 - Session was held with three empty chairs and a minute of silence for the MPs killed in the blast

- First explosion to rock the parliament and comes amid attempts to improve security
- Iraqi Ambassador to UN – Terrorists have no ambition to help the situation in Iraq and stop at nothing in attempts in destabilizing the country
- Reports have emerged that 15 people have been killed in search operations around the Green zone
- American president George Bush has reiterated his countries support to the Iraqi people and government and stated that he has a personal interest in ensuring a secure Iraq

BBC News 24 (13/04/07):

Main stories:

- **Capsized Vessels:**
 - Rescue mission turned into recovery mission as fears increase for the lives of the four remaining sailors
 - Rescue teams have not been able to receive a sign of life from the crew
 - 15 year old boy on work experience has been reported to be amongst the missing five
 - Almost seems certain, barring a miracle, that 8 people have died when the vessel capsized à Rescue workers have stated that it would be a miracle to find them alive
 - Detailed documentary clip on what occurred and the latest developments
- **Calais asylum centre:**
 - Major of Calais announces the opening of another asylum centre near Calais
 - Raises fears of a new detention centre resembling the Sangatte Center which closed a few years ago
- **Sex attack sentencing:**
 - Man jailed indefinitely for sexually assaulting a nine year old girl
- **Iraq Parliament Blast:**
 - Insurgent group linked to Al Qaeda has claimed responsibility for the bombing
 - Parliament met in session of defiance today
 - Investigation being launched to determine how the
 - Report from Baghdad – Images of the rare emergency session being held in the parliament. Flowers were placed on empty chair of MP killed in the attack
 - § Investigation well under way – focusing on the theory that bomber was a bodyguard of one of the MPS
 - § Statement placed on the internet by an insurgent group linked to Al Qaeda stated that it carried out the attack to reveal the lies of American crackdown
 - § Crackdown has suffered a major blow – senior officers have admitted that they have more work to do before the city is safe (clip of interview with US general)

- § More Americans on the way to secure the city yet most Iraqis do not believe that their presence can save their country
- **World Bank Scandal:**
 - White House stands by World Bank head Wolfowitz despite admissions that he helped his girlfriend get a job
 - § Short report on story - “Scandal is pure Washington” – Wolfowitz used his position to help his girlfriend. Got her a lucrative new jobs with lots of perks
 - § Used to work at American Department of Defence – helped plan the war in Iraq – Washington is waiting to see if Wolfowitz is going to resign as a result of scandal. Another star of the Bush administration that has been made to make his decline

On BBC website headlines:

- *Insurgents claim Baghdad attack*
- *India ‘to drop’ menstrual forms*
- *Petition urges BBC man’s release*
- *Pressure grows on Wolfowitz*
- *Brazil breaks up ‘killing firm’*
- *Team accepts DJ racism apology*
- *Fury at Howard HIV entry ban call*
- *Sperm made from bone marrow*
- *Technical hitch hits Visa cards*
- ...

CNN (13/04/07):

Website:

- *US: Al Qaeda link to bombing*
- *Calls mount for Wolfowitz to quit*
- *N.J. governor in critical condition*
- *Basketball team accepts shock jock’s apology*
- *‘D.C. madam’ names ‘customer’*
- *Error blames for Mars probe’s loss*
- *Smith auction diaries ‘are stolen’*
- *Pope’s new book plugs ‘real Jesus’*
- *Wildfire brings destruction to Beverly Hills*
- *Rugby stars races cheetah*
- *Ozzy: First album I’ve done sober*
- *Gunman apologizes during robbery*
- *Madonna visit sparks Malawi rumours*
- *LeBeaouf starts in ‘Indiana Jones 4’*
- ...

- BBCWS Arabic continues to report that 8 people (including 3 MPs) were killed during the attack while BBC News 24, BBC English international website, and CNN report the revised figure of 1 MP killed and 22 wounded (with CNN not even mentioning that the figure had been revised)
 - o BBCWS Arabic mentions the conflicting figures between US sources and Iraqi sources in its article on the issue while the other news providers make no mention of these conflicting reports
- BBCWS covers story (as video and on articles) of Israeli general being suspended by the IDF by using Palestinian youths as human shields from stones à other news providers do not cover story
 - o Video of the Palestinian youths shot by an English speaking cameraman
- BBCWS Arabic only provider to report on Sudan, Somalia and Oxfam report on Palestinian economic crisis in its radio broadcast. BBCWS website also carries article on speech held by Turkish president Sezer to warn of the emergence of Islamic extremism in Turkey à not mentioned on other providers either

14/04/07

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **Dead and injured as explosions target shrine in Karbala and bridge in Baghdad**
- Moroccan authorities prevent two suicide bombers from causing greater damage in the capital Casablanca, near American embassy
- Israeli PM meets Palestinian unity government leader and indicated that they will soon proceed with steps agreed upon in the Arab Summit in Riyadh

Stories covered in-depth:

- **Iraq:**
 - o Fifty killed in two suicide bombings – first occurred in Karbala near al Hussein shrine and the second on the Al Jabriya bridge in Baghdad. Second explosion killed ten at least
 - o Worry in Karbala over distress and revenge attacks that could fuel sectarian violence
 - o Basra: British soldiers say forces killed eight armed civilians who were planting bombs - same area in which four soldiers and their translator were killed.
- Killed head of planned suicide bombers
 - o The explosions today injured two police man, also arrested members of an apparently intricate web of terrorists in Morocco
- Chad/Sudan:
 - o Sudanese PM met with Chadian PM to reduce tensions following Chadian incursion into Sudan and accusations from both governments of supporting rebels in areas in and around Darfur.
- Palestine/Israel:
 - o Israeli PM Olmert releases formal statement directed towards Mahmood Abbas, including the fact that he's ready to start talking to Arab nations based on based Arab summit. He is also ready to consider the initiative as a basis of Palestinian/Israeli conflict.
- American foreign ministry:
 - o North Korea should invite IAEA officials to dismantle nuclear plants in order to receive economic aid.
- Turkey:
 - o 100s of thousands demonstrate today at Ankara:

- Supporting the separation of religion and politics. Pressure to prime minister to reduce Muslim views, and not to re run in next presidential elections
- Egypt:
 - 70 arrested in Egypt à amongst them are twelve students
 - Deemed to be related to Muslim brotherhood. Police says that arrested suspects were going to put on a military show, while brotherhood denies that.
- Millions in Nigeria take part in voting, chaos spread as people waited outside booths to vote

Website:

Death of forty in a suicide attack in Karbala:

- Medical and police forces state that forty at least killed and one hundred injured in suicide attack at Shiite city Karbala.
- Attack took place less than two hundred meters away from shrine of Imam Hussein bin Ali, most prominent Shiite shrine.
- Also, ten people killed in an explosion near checkpoint on a bridge in Baghdad, bridge still intact.
- In another incident, a militant group deemed to be related to Al Qaeda claims that it kidnapped 20 Iraqi soldiers and policemen. Demanding the release of all women Sunni prisoners.
- These attacks occur while America is conducting the surge, for the third continuous month, surge suppressed religious attacks in Baghdad yet militant explosions are still carried out

New suicide attacks in Casablanca:

- Two suicide bombers kill one woman, attack occurred near American Consulate and cultural centre.
- This attack comes four days after previous three suicide bombers.
- After hours of suicide attackers police arrests who is believed to be the head of a network of terrorists and his assistant.

Washington demands Pyongyang to receive IAEA inspectors immediately:

- US demands North Korea to immediately invite IAEA officials to dismantle nuclear plants.
- North Korea should implement its part of the agreement before it could receive aid based on the Beijing Agreement two months ago
- Reuters reports on Chris Hill assistant to Rice – ‘We are patient yet its time to move.’
- Also, North Korea insists upon the release of the frozen assets worth millions of dollars by the US, where the US accuses the Korean bank Delta Asia of money laundering à this slowed the process of the implementation of the Beijing Agreement.
- If Korea is to commit to agreements, country is to receive 50 thousand tons of oil.
- China recently urged the US to remain patient with north Korea

News clips:

- Video about the explosion that took place in the city of Karbala, Iraq:
 - o Footage of the explosion with narrator telling sequence of events – “47 killed and at least 60 injured, many woman and children”
 - § Police dispersed crowds in front of the site of the attack with gunshots into the air
 - § People complained about the lack of government control and security
 - § Explosion occurred only a few meters away from one of the holiest shrines to the Shiites
 - o Audio of video was not audible – background noise of footage too loud

BBC News 24 (14/04/07):

Main stories:

- **William and Kate Split** – Detailed documentary and interviews on what may have caused the split and the consequences of the break-up
- **Iraq Violence:**
 - o British forces have shot dead 8 people who were laying roadside bombs – Army says that they had been planning more attacks
 - § Insurgents killed in the same area that saw the killing of four other British soldiers
 - § Documentary film with extracts of British troops fighting those insurgents – Killed 8 insurgents belonging to the Mehdi army – according to local sources
 - § Re-counts the death of the four British soldiers ten days ago
 - o 36 people killed in an explosion at a Shiite shrine in the city of Karbala and at an explosion at a bridge in Baghdad
 - o Interview with Baghdad correspondent to find out whether those killed by British soldiers in Basra had something to do with attack ten days ago – they were members of the Mehdi army à British army probably going to put one and one together and realize its probably the same group supporting these operations
 - § Bombings in Baghdad and Karbala - sign of targeting infrastructure, invading security plan, and also to make sure it gets coverage è attacks on bridges could split Baghdad into two
 - In Karbala it was a deliberate attack on Shiites – hoping to spark sectarian violence
- **N. Korea Nuclear:**
 - o US has announced north Korea has to invite back inspectors and shut down its nuclear plant before it can receive aid to encourage it to stop its nuclear programme
- **Brown in Washington**
 - o First meeting between Bush and Brown
 - o Discussed Iraq, Afghanistan and trade
 - o Interview with Gordon Brown – “Was a private, short, informal meeting”

- § British policy run in national interest – Britain and America have shared values (liberty, freedom, dignity of the individual) – what binds Britain and America together is these shared values which have come to existence since America has become independent
- Justin Webb – Washington Correspondent – Interesting that this meeting took place between Brown and Bush
 - § White House might have its feelers out
 - § Bush has the need to get a feel for someone – thus sought him out and met him
 - § Brown’s cool reaction to the meeting might be Brown seizing the opportunity to recalibrate the relationship between the UK and US
 - Labour and electorate not too fond of George Bush and in some cases the US

On BBC website headlines:

- *Confusion mars Nigeria election*
- *Suicide attack on Iraqi holy city*
- *Prince William and girlfriend split*
- *US urges N. Korea to shut reactor*
- *BBC man’s abduction condemned*
- *Kasparov held at Moscow rally*
- *New suicide attacks hit Morocco*
- *French captives ‘appear on video’*
- *Secular rally targets Turkish PM*

CNN (14/04/07):

Website:

- *Market, bridge bombs kill dozens*
- *N. Korea misses deadline; US waits*
- *Suicide bombers strike Casablanca*
- *Kasparov held at Russian demo*
- *Prince William single again*
- *German army in new racism row*
- *Calls mount for Wolfowitz to quit*
- *White House emails ‘vanish’*
- *Race slurred team accepts apology*
- *Stern files defamation lawsuit*
- *Jewellery stolen at top watch fair*
- *Man dies in garbage, woman saved*
- *Irish outsider wins Grand National*

Notes 14/04/07

- Similar news structure and order with Iraq violence, Casablanca suicide attacks and N. Korean developments with the IAEA all feature as main stories
- In the 'in-depth' section of the BBCWS Arabic is the only of the three news providers to carry stories of Egypt, Turkey, Sudan and Nigeria à all stories related to the Arab/Islamic world (obviously CNN and BBC News 24 also have certain stories that they are only carrying but interesting to see that English and Arabic BBC channels seem to hardly share the same stories if its not a major development)

BBC WS (Arabic):

Radio:

Headlines:

- **Barghouti announces new security plan for Gaza**
 - o **Abbas meets with Olmert in Jerusalem**
- Tens killed in explosions and death of two British soldiers in helicopter accident
- Violent attacks in Nigeria due to elections
- Ecuador - continuous votes for amendments in constitution

In Depth:

- **Israeli PM Olmert meets with Abbas:**
 - o Positive talks à humanitarian and peace talks
 - o Planning another meeting in the West Bank city of Jericho next- talks about peace initiative with Arab leaders
 - o Barghouti says unacceptable for Israeli PM Olmert to get involved in parliamentary decisions, such as court orders, economic situation, etc. in the Palestinian territories
 - § Comments come as explosions targets Gaza internet cafés and bookshops
- Chain of explosions in Baghdad:
 - o Explosion near market killed dozens and injured many more
 - o In another incident, two British helicopters collided with each other over an American base north of Baghdad à at least two British soldiers were killed in that operation
- Russia:
 - o Anti government demonstrations lead to violence between police and demonstrators in second largest city St. Petersburg
 - o These follow demonstrations in Moscow.
 - o Police outnumbered the demonstrators who were demonstrating against what they called anti-democratic moves by Putin
- Jordan Nuclear:
 - o Mohammed Al Baradi, Chief of the IAEA agency, has talked with Jordanian officials who have expressed their ambitions of launching a nuclear programme
 - o Peaceful nuclear programme should be functioning by 2015
- US tells North Korea to shut down nuclear plants:
 - o US also asks north Korea to invite IAEA officials back into the country
 - o Sixty day warning-extension granted
- New study in Britain:

- High blood pressure could be spawned from blood activity not heart activity [Bristol University](#)

Website:

Death of 35 in a chain of bombs in Baghdad:

- The most noticeable explosion occurred in a police neighbourhood when two cars exploded in a shopping area. News reports 50 injured and at least 18 killed. Mostly Shiite neighbourhood
- Later that day, suicide bomber in a small bus, killed 11 people
- On another note, two British soldiers were killed in a helicopter accident, not shootout. 5 injured
- Recount of past helicopter crash that killed 10, considered the greatest loss of British soldiers in one day, also British soldiers run into shootouts with militants in Basra. 5 killed from al Mehdi army.
- In Karbala, medical sources claim that number of victims of yesterday's bomb rose to 42, including 8 kids, 224 injured.

Abbas meets with Olmert:

- Meeting ended in Jerusalem, where they looked for ways to revive the peace talks.
- Next meeting would be held in Jericho, which would be the first meeting in a Palestinian city.
- Olmert previously announced that he was ready to conduct peace talks with the Arab nations regarding the Arab initiative, which was revived once again at the past Arab summit in Riyadh last month.
- Yet Olmert stresses that his readiness to negotiate doesn't mean that Israel is ready to commit to the initiative.
- Perez says that Israel is ready to conduct primary telephone conversations with the Arab league, aimed at negotiating the Arab initiative.
- At relatively the same time, Qatari Prime Minister, Sheikh Hamad II, invites Israel to accept the Arab initiative to avoid disaster.
- On another note, the Palestinian government has agreed upon a security plan aimed at monitoring Palestinian security units, and any signs of military planning or action. Barghoutti: this plan is aimed at creating a sense of coordination between Hamas and Fateh.
- Barghoutti: this 'operations control (literally translated as room)' will include members of both Hamas and Fateh, and members of any security forces present in Palestine. What remains hidden is the fate of the implementation forces created by Hamas about a year ago.
- The implementation forces created by Hamas have spawned the continuous fighting amongst Hamas and Fateh the past months.
- Barghoutti also announces that Abbas is due to create a "National Palestinian security council" which would include Ismail Haniyeh (Hamas) and Mohammad Dahlan (Fateh)
- Gaza: the streets of Gaza were crowded with demonstrators from the town council as their salaries haven't been paid for more than six months.
- Israel: Another development, where Israeli court releases information regarding the investigation into Azmi Bishara's (Arab Israeli MP) behaviour during the Lebanon war in 2006

Washington allows Pyongyang several days to carry out its commitments:

- The US has announced that it will grant North Korea another 60 days to comply with the conditions they had agreed upon to renew economic aid to the Korea
- US demands that North Korea invites IAEA officials to dismantle nuclear plants.
- North Korea should implement its part of the agreement before it could receive aid based on the Beijing Agreement two months ago
- Reuters reports on Chris Hill assistant to Rice, we are patient yet its time to move.
- Also, North Korea insists upon the release of the frozen assets worth millions of dollars by the US, where the US accuses the Korean bank Delta Asia of money launderingà this slowed the process of the implementation of the Beijing Agreement.
- If Korea is to commit to agreements, country is to receive 50 thousand tons of oil.
- China recently urged the US to remain patient with north Korea

News clips:

- Video about the meeting between Israeli PM Olmert and Palestinian President Abbas:
 - o Meeting took place in Jerusalem over lunch
 - § Meetings had been agreed upon while US Secretary of Foreign Affairs Rice was in region
 - o Video notes that it is important to remember that the Palestinian people do not benefit much of these meetings – a point Abbas made indicating for the need of quick action
 - o PM Olmert indicated to Abbas that Israel is considering the suggest Peace proposals of the Arab Summit
- Video about the continuing violence in Iraq:
 - o Video of footage of explosions and aftermath of suicide bombings in Iraq
 - o “Not one day passes without violence striking the Iraqi capital”
 - § Sunday saw two explosions from car bombs
 - § Targeted police station in Shiite neighbourhood and restaurant in central Baghdad
 - § At least 15 people killed and 50 injured
 - o Developments taking place two months into surge operations of American and Iraqi forces to quell violence in Iraq
 - § Slightly critical note of the operations and their lack of achieving much in such times

BBC News 24 (15/04/07):

Main stories:

- **Iraq Violence:**

- Two British puma-type helicopters have crashed 20 miles north of Baghdad – near a large American base
 - § Two British army personnel were killed in the crash – casualties mix of regular
 - § It is believed helicopters were involved in special forces mission
 - § Investigation is under way
 - § Jonathan Charles BBC Correspondent in Baghdad – Only very few British forces active in the area à they have been informed that it was a special forces operations (or very senior commanders involved co-ordination operations with the Americans at the HQs)
 - § Only 4 or 5 puma's operating in Iraq
 - § US has immediately announced that it was a collision rather than enemy fire (region has a lot of enemy activity)
 - § Is surge visible? – Notice more Iraqi troops and more Americans à they are more visible, effective in some areas but not others – hasn't stopped suicide bombings – doesn't matter how many troops are in Baghdad
 - § Attacks make the government seem that they are not in control
- Defence Secretary Des Browne has indicated that the crash was caused by a mid-air collision rather than enemy fire
- Interview with BBC Correspondent in Baghdad, clip of Blair speech and images of service personnel active in Iraq
- 3 Bombs strike in Shiite areas killing many people (comments made by BBC Correspondent Jonathan Charles) à not more depth on attacks
- **Memorial Service:**
 - Service was held for the crew men killed when their vessel capsized near an oilrig in the north Sea last week
 - Blustery conditions as relatives laid flowers on water's edge
- **Tony Blair interview**
 - The PM Tony Blair has expressed his sympathy to the families of the two servicemen killed in Iraq today to the families of dead
 - § What the forces are doing in Iraq and Afghanistan is that they are fighting the same forces of terrorism and extremism that are operating around the world today
- **NHS Job Cuts**
 - Union – 22,000 NHS jobs lost in 18 months
 - § Governments: RCN figures outdated and misleading
 - § Union claims patients are the ones that are suffering
- **Record weather in the UK:**
 - Documentary warning of the effects of too much sun exposure – warning of cancer danger even if its just April

On BBC website headlines:

- *Two die as UK helicopter crash*
- *First results due in Nigeria poll*
- *German army in 'racist video' row*

- *Ecuadoreans cote on key reforms*
- *Russian opposition in fresh rally*
- *World Bank mulls Wolfowitz*
- *Beijing Olympics tickets on sale*
- *Woolmer toxicology report ready*
- *Sea lion attacks Australian girl*
- ...

CNN (15/04/07):

Website:

- ***Bombs kill, hurt dozens in Iraq***
- *European leaders fault Wolfowitz*
- *Police beat anti-Putin campaigners*
- *Vacationers swept over waterfalls*
- *21 die in Nigerian vote violence*
- *Deadly storm cancels 300 flights*
- *French hostages appear in video*
- *Iran seeks tow more nuclear plants*
- *Pope celebrates 80th birthday*
- *Prince split sparks media frenzy*
- *Surfer girl attacked by sea lion*
- ...

Notes 15/04/07

- BBCWS lead story dealing with developments in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict
 - o Meeting between Abbas and Olmert not mentioned on analyzed other news providers
- All three news providers feature the latest Iraqi violence as one of their main stories:
 - o BBCWS Arabic and CNN take a wider look at the violence in Iraq while BBC international (website) does not mention the other attacks in its article on the website and BBC News 24 only mentions it as a side comment (their correspondent in Baghdad Jonathan Charles)
 - § BBC News 24 and BBC international paying more attention to the collision and crash of the two British helicopters in Iraq
- Article on BBCWS Arabic on N. Korean nuclear discussions was an identical copy of the article yesterday
- The videos featured on BBCWS tend to be far more emotional and opinionated in the fashion that they report the news
 - o The articles on BBCWS Arabic website on the other hand tend to be far more factual (maybe that has to do with the use of classical Arabic in the articles compared to the one used on the radio and in the videos)
- BBCWS carries reports on Jordanian nuclear ambitions – not carried by other news service providers

