

BRIEFS

Berri calls for Lebanese unity amid regional unrest

BEIRUT: Speaker Nabih Berri said Thursday the turbulent region required that Lebanon boost its unity, civil peace and lay down a strategy for sustainable development. "Amid this turbulent and tense state of the region ... Lebanon is always in need of strengthening the factors of its internal unity, enhancing its civil peace and agreeing on a strategic plan for sustainable development," Berri said during a ceremony to inaugurate the Faculty of Languages at Universite Saint Joseph which took place under his patronage. Berri added that such a plan should ensure continuity in public administrations. He welcomed the September visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Lebanon, saying it would make the Levant once again a space for partnership. The speaker stressed that democracy, freedom and good governance should be "a national production first." – *The Daily Star*