

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

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TERRORISM

ARAB AND ISLAMIC WORLD CONDEMN BOMBINGS IN IRAQ

Saudi Arabia issued a statement condemning the March 2 terrorist attacks in Baghdad and Karbala, as did the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and the Makkah-based Muslim World League (MWL). OIC Secretary-General Dr. Abdulwahid Belkaziz declared: "Such terrorist acts have the sole intention of provoking disputes among Muslims."

REFORM

FORMATION OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

Crown Prince Abdullah received in Riyadh on March 9 head of the National Human Rights Association (NHRA) Dr. Abdullah bin Salih Al-Obaid, together with members of NHRA, on the occasion of the founding of the organization. The 41-member NHRA, which includes women, will implement human rights charters signed by Saudi Arabia, and has a special panel to monitor violations of women's rights.

ECONOMY

EXPANSION OF PORTS AND RAILROADS

After signing a contract for development of the container terminal at King Abdulaziz Port in Dammam, Minister of Transport Dr. Jubarah Al-Suraiseri announced that tenders for the railway expansion project will be invited as soon as the contract with the legal consultant has been signed.

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