

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

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TERRORISM

TWO MILITANTS CONFIRMED DEAD; TWO OTHERS KILLED

The Interior Ministry confirmed on July 3 that two militants on the December list of 26 most wanted died of wounds sustained in the April 12 incident in the Al-Fayha suburb in Riyadh: Rakan Muhsin Mohammed Alsaykhan and Nasir Rashid Nasir Alrashid.

Meanwhile, two terrorists were killed in separate shootouts in Riyadh on June 30 and July 1. In these incidents, two security officers were killed and six injured; three passers-by, two of them foreign residents, were wounded.

ANOTHER WANTED TERRORIST SURRENDERS

On June 28, four days after King Fahd offered a grace period, a second wanted Saudi surrendered himself to the police: Osman Hadi Al Maqboul Almardy Alomary, who was on the list of 26 most wanted published last December.

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry announced on June 29 that any citizen who delivers an unlicensed weapon to the authorities within a two-month period will not be penalized.

G-8'S FATF RELEASES REPORT ON TERRORIST FINANCING

The Financial Task Force (FATF) of the G-8 nations has released its fifteenth annual report, which contains an evaluation of Saudi Arabia's laws, regulations and systems to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. According to this evaluation: "Saudi authorities have taken action to increase the requirements for financial institutions on customer due diligence, established systems for tracing and freezing terrorist assets, and tightened the regulation and transparency of charitable organizations."

IRAQ

KINGDOM PRAISES HANDOVER OF AUTHORITY IN IRAQ

At its meetings on June 28 and July 5, the Council of Ministers expressed its satisfaction, especially in regard to the role of the United Nations, concerning the handover of authority in Iraq, and its hope that this will lead to the restoration of stability so that Iraq can resume its role as an effective member of the international community.

ECONOMY

LAUNCH OF KINGDOM'S FIRST COMMERCIAL SATELLITES

Saudi Arabia launched its first satellites for commercial use on June 29, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Two of the three locally-built, low-altitude satellites, SaudiComsat One and SaudiComsat Two, are for commercial use in data communication, while the third, SaudiSat Two, is for government experimental purposes. Saudi Arabia now has six satellites in space.

SURVEY OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE KINGDOM

On June 30, Governor of the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA) Amr Al-Dabbagh announced the start of a comprehensive six-month survey of the actual extent of direct foreign investment in the Kingdom. The survey will result in a database on investment flow, assess the size and nature of foreign investment, and assist decision-making on investment issues.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO SET UP WTO CENTER

The Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CSCCI) will set up early next year a center to provide technical and support services to Saudi businessmen in preparation for the Kingdom's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The proposed center will offer technical support to all business enterprises, including Arabic translations of WTO documents.

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