

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

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TERRORISM

THREE ON MOST WANTED LIST KILLED

The Interior Ministry announced the identities of the fifteen terrorists responsible for the attempted car bombings in Riyadh at the Ministry of Interior and the headquarters of Emergency Special Forces. Among those killed were Sultan Bjad So'doon Alotaibi, Bandar Abdulrahman Abdullah Aldakheel, and Abdullah Saud Abunayan Alsobaie'e, three of the Kingdom's most wanted terror suspects. To date, only five of the original 26 most wanted remain at large.

FOREIGN AID

\$10 MILLION IN EMERGENCY AID TO TSUNAMI VICTIMS

Saudi Arabia will provide U.S. \$10 million in emergency humanitarian aid to the victims of the tsunami in the Indian Ocean region. Five million dollars in food and medical assistance will be distributed through the Saudi Red Crescent Society, and \$5 million in cash will be channeled through the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. On Sunday, the Saudi-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) allocated U.S. \$10 million in emergency aid to Indonesia, the Maldives, Somalia, Thailand, India and Sri Lanka.

The Kingdom has already dispatched a delegation to the affected areas to survey the devastation and coordinate relief efforts with local authorities. The first Saudi relief planes arrived in the region on Sunday loaded with 150 tons of food, medical supplies, tents and blankets for the victims of the tsunami.

The Kingdom has been on the forefront in overseas development assistance. Over the past three decades, Saudi Arabia's foreign aid averaged about 4% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), well above the official United Nations goal of 0.7%.

TRADE

KINGDOM COMMITTED TO GCC TRADE AGREEMENTS

Saudi Arabia's reservation regarding the U.S.-Bahrain free trade agreement does not reflect a dispute or difference with Bahrain. Instead, it reflects the Kingdom's dedication towards seeing Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) resolutions honored, the Council of Ministers said

Monday in a statement. Saudi Arabia's concern, the Cabinet stated, "is not considered by Saudi Arabia as amounting to a bilateral or even collective dispute, but rather reflects the Kingdom's keenness on (maintaining) the credibility and seriousness of the Gulf Cooperation Council resolutions, especially in regard to the GCC economic unity."

ENERGY

RECOVERABLE OIL RESERVES CAN REACH 461 BILLION BARRELS

At the formal launching of Saudi Aramco's expanded Qatif Producing Plants Project last week, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ali Al-Naimi stated that the Kingdom's proven oil reserves are nearly 261 billion barrels and that the Kingdom hopes to increase recoverable oil reserves to 461 billion barrels through new discoveries and enhanced oil recovery processes.

HEALTH

SAUDI MEDICAL TEAM SEPARATES POLISH SIAMESE TWINS

A fifty-member Saudi medical team successfully separated conjoined twin girls, who shared a common spinal cord, pelvis, colon, and sex organs, in a 15-hour operation performed at King Abdulaziz National Guard Medical City in Riyadh Monday. The conjoined Polish infants, Daria and Olga Kolacz, arrived in Saudi Arabia December 11 for the separation surgery financed by Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz. The separation surgery is the sixth of its kind undertaken at King Abdulaziz National Guard Medical City and the ninth in Saudi Arabia.

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