

# *SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS*

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## **TERRORISM**

### **MINISTER URGES SUPPORT OF TERRORISM CONFERENCE**

Islamic Affairs Minister Shaikh Saleh bin Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh, speaking on the occasion of the *Counter-Terrorism International Conference* that opens in Riyadh on February 5, 2005, urged support for the nation's security forces, and for enlightenment of young people to protect them from deviant ideas. The Ministry has set up task forces to supervise the implementation of the country's campaign against terrorism; it is presenting radio and television programs, and distributing publications and audio cassettes. The aim of the conference is the exchange of views on terrorism as well as discussion on relations between terrorism and money laundering, and smuggling of weapons and drugs. Information on the *Counter-Terrorism International Conference* can be found at conference's official web site [www.ctic.org.sa](http://www.ctic.org.sa), or the embassy's website [www.saudiembassy.net](http://www.saudiembassy.net).

### **RESIGNATION OF CHIEF OF GENERAL INTELLIGENCE PRINCE NAWAF**

It was announced on January 26, 2005 that Chief of General Intelligence Prince Nawaf bin Abdulaziz had resigned his post, and has been appointed Special Advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques at the Royal Court, with the rank of Minister. No replacement has as yet been named.

## **IRAQ**

### **SAUDI ARABIA CONGRATULATES IRAQ ON ELECTORAL PROCESS**

A statement was issued on February 1, 2005, expressing congratulations to Iraq from the government and people of Saudi Arabia on the success of the electoral process in that country, referring to it as an important step towards regaining sovereignty, independence and national reconciliation.

## **REFORM**

### **CANDIDATES REGISTER FOR RIYADH'S MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.**

A total of 1,818 candidates have registered for election to municipal councils in Riyadh Province. This number includes 646 candidates for electoral districts within the city of Riyadh.

### **CROWN PRINCE ABDULLAH'S EDUCATION INITIATIVE**

Governor of Makkah Province Prince Abdulmajeed bin Abdulaziz opened a workshop at the King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah today that is discussing ways of activating the initiative on higher education proposed by Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz.

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