

# *SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS*

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## **TERRORISM**

### **KINGDOM HANDS OVER DETAINEE WHO IS U.S. CITIZEN**

On February 23 Saudi security authorities handed over to the United States, at the request of his family, a U.S. citizen who had been detained in the Kingdom as a terrorist suspect. Seven Saudi citizens held in the United States on similar charges, have previously been extradited to the Kingdom.

## **ECONOMY**

### **SIXTH JEDDAH ECONOMIC FORUM FOCUSES ON CAPACITY-BUILDING**

At the Sixth Annual Jeddah Economic Forum, Minister of Labor Ghazi Al-Qusaibi said Saudi Arabia would eradicate unemployment within five years while accelerating Saudization, with plans to employ 120,000 nationals in the private sector every year, and with 75 institutes training 300,000 young Saudis in three years. Also at the three-day Forum, which ended February 21, Secretary-General of the Supreme Commission for Tourism Prince Sultan bin Salman described the Kingdom's tourist industry as offering many jobs for young people.

## **OIL**

### **OIL PRODUCERS URGED TO BUILD MORE REFINERIES**

At a conference in Houston, Texas, Saudi Aramco President and CEO Abdallah Jum'ah urged expansion of refining capacity in oil-producing countries in order to ensure the world's energy future. He also called for improved environmental technology and increased upstream investment in infrastructure such as pipelines and terminals. Predicting that oil will maintain its importance for the foreseeable future, he reiterated Saudi Aramco's commitment to ensuring that supplies are available when needed. Saudi Arabia currently has eight refineries, with a combined crude throughput of about 2 million barrels per day (bpd).

Meanwhile, oil Minister Ali Al-Naimi, at a press conference in Riyadh on February 21, confirmed that the Kingdom is currently producing 9 million bpd, has a capacity of 11 million bpd, and can raise this to 12.5 million bpd by 2009. Only one quarter of the Kingdom's 80 oil and gas fields, he said, are currently in use.

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