

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

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TERRORISM

SUSPECT ARRESTED IN JEDDAH RAID

On March 13, security officers raided an apartment in Jeddah, arresting a wanted suspect along with two others, and killing a fourth. Thirteen security officers were injured in the incident, as were an innocent couple who were nearby. The woman later died of her wounds.

OIL

OIL MINISTER CONFIRMS POTENTIAL TO INCREASE PRODUCTION

Oil Minister Ali Al-Naimi declared on March 14 that the current increase in the price of crude oil is not justified, since the reserve stockpile is compatible with market requirements. He said Saudi Arabia will at some point this year increase its production in order to meet a projected increase in demand, expressed the hope that OPEC will raise its production ceiling, and confirmed that the Kingdom is capable of expanding its capacity to at least 12.5 million bpd.

ELECTIONS

KINGDOM READIES FOR THIRD PHASE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

An open meeting was held in Makkah on March 13 to address queries on the third phase of the municipal elections, for the western and northern provinces. Voting rates are expected to equal the 70 percent or more recorded in the first and second phases of the nationwide election process.

Meanwhile, on March 12 it was announced that after review of appeals, the final results of the municipal elections in Riyadh Province have been endorsed.

HEALTH

SEPARATED TWINS TO RETURN SOON TO POLAND

The conjoined twin girls, Olga and Daria, successfully separated, have been discharged in good condition from the National Guard's King Abdulaziz Medical City in Riyadh, and are expected to return soon to Poland. The hospital has carried out many such operations (see <http://www.conjoinedtwins.med.sa>).

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