

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE
INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE
ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA
IN WASHINGTON, DC

MAY 31, 2005

KINGDOM

KING FAHD IN STABLE AND SATISFACTORY CONDITION

The Royal Court stated on May 28 that King Fahd is in a stable and satisfactory condition after being admitted to the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center in Riyadh for a medical checkup. The Royal Court had earlier denied media reports that the Kingdom had announced an emergency situation and cancelled vacations of security forces personnel. On May 29, Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz confirmed that the King's health continues to improve; and at the May 30 Cabinet meeting, Crown Prince Abdullah reiterated this, expressing thanks to all those worldwide who had inquired about his condition.

ECONOMY

SECOND CELL PHONE COMPANY LAUNCHES SERVICES

The Kingdom's second cell phone company Etihad Etisalat, to be known as 'Mobily', launched its services on May 24. These, operational in some 30 urban centers, include voicemail, news and data downloads, SMS, and Internet browsing. Etihad Etisalat won the bid for the second mobile network on December 22, 2004.

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