

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

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TERRORISM

KINGDOM REITERATES STAND AGAINST WMD

The Foreign Ministry issued a statement on June 12 reaffirming the Kingdom's commitment to all international agreements aimed at protecting the world against the dangers of weapons of mass destruction, establishing nuclear-free zones, and achieving peaceful co-existence. The statement reiterated the Kingdom's constant wish to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and reassured the international community that Saudi Arabia does not possess any nuclear facilities or reactors, nor any fissionable materials.

At its June 13 meeting, the Cabinet reiterated its call on the international community to put pressure on Israel to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in order to ensure that the Middle East is a region free from all weapons of mass destruction.

FOREIGN AID

KINGDOM'S CONTINUED AID TO PALESTINIANS

The Saudi Commission for the Relief of the Palestinian People has donated U.S. \$2.33 million to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), as part of an ongoing program to implement projects in Palestine. This is in addition to \$530,000 through the Saudi Red Crescent Society to provide food aid for 2,500 Palestinian families.

ECONOMY

MAKKAH GOVERNOR PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Governor of Makkah Province Prince Abdulmajeed bin Abdulaziz visited the businesswomen's center at the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) on June 8, and pledged his support for its activities. The Center offers services to the city's 5,000 or more businesswomen, including training programs.

TASI TOPS 13,000 POINTS AS STOCK MARKET BOOMS

The Saudi stock market's Tadawul All Share Index (TASI) touched 13,057 on June 8, with 38 of the 75 stocks traded showing increases and 32.1 million shares worth U.S. \$2.38 billion changing hands during that week. TASI is currently 58.3 percent higher than it was at the beginning of 2005.

ALMARAI TO FLOAT SHARES FOR PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION

Almarai Company Limited will soon launch an initial public offering (IPO), converting to a joint stock company with a capital of \$200.27 million divided into 15 million shares worth \$13.35 each. Almarai, headquartered in Riyadh, processes dairy products and is the Kingdom's largest food exporter. The company, which employs 4,000 people, owns 45,000 head of cattle and has a capacity of 1.4 million liters of milk per day.

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