

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

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ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA
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TERRORISM

NEW MOST-WANTED LIST ISSUED

The Interior Ministry issued a new most-wanted list on June 28, naming 36 wanted suspects and urging them to surrender to the authorities. Most are Saudi nationals; and more than half are believed to be currently outside the Kingdom. As with the list of 26 published on December 6, 2003, the Ministry calls on all citizens and residents to report information they may have about any of the wanted suspects, with financial rewards offered of up to \$1.9 million.

IRAQ

PRINCE SAUD ADDRESSES BRUSSELS CONFERENCE ON IRAQ

Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal, in his address to the June 22 conference in Brussels on the reconstruction of Iraq, reiterated Saudi Arabia's consistent policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and declared that Iraq should be "an independent and unified country enjoying security, stability and prosperity, and at peace with its neighbors". He expressed concern at the daily toll of casualties in Iraq, and urged the international community to take the responsibility of restoring to it a stable political environment. Saudi Arabia has pledged one billion dollars in soft loans and guarantees for the reconstruction of Iraq, and is ready to facilitate debt relief.

The June 27 Cabinet meeting reaffirmed that Saudi Arabia has always urged commitment to the principle of non-intervention in Iraq's internal affairs and the need to maintain its territorial integrity.

SAUDI-U.S. RELATIONS

SAUDI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ISSUES STATEMENT

On June 26, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington DC issued a statement clarifying that Prince Bandar bin Sultan continues in his position as Ambassador to the United States. Prince Bandar is currently on vacation and is expected to return to his office at the end of August.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

CONJOINED TWINS FROM EGYPT SUCCESSFULLY SEPARATED

On June 25, a 36-member Saudi medical team led by Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabee'a successfully separated conjoined twins from Egypt in a ten-hour operation at the National Guard's King Abdulaziz Medical City in Riyadh. The twin girls, who had been fused in the lower chest and abdomen, were reported on June 26 to be in stable condition with no complications. This was Dr. Al-Rabee's tenth separation surgery, and the thirteenth such operation carried out in the Kingdom. Eleven of the previous twelve were completely successful. Details can be viewed at the National Guard's website on conjoined twins: <http://www.conjoinedtwins.med.sa>.

U.S. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Ministry of Higher Education has announced the availability of 2,500 scholarships for Saudis wishing to study in the United States in a wide variety of fields, from bachelor's through doctorate degrees. Eligible Saudis should have a valid visa and admission to a U.S. university. There are currently 15,516 Saudis studying abroad, of whom 6,744 are on government scholarships.

ENERGY

NEW SOURCE OF GAS AND CONDENSATES FOUND

At its June 27 meeting, the Cabinet welcomed the discovery by Saudi Aramco of a new source of gas and condensates in a reservoir at a well about sixty miles west of Dhahran in the Eastern Province. Gas is flowing at a rate of 40 million cubic feet per day and condensates at 20 barrels per day; the density is 45 degree API.

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