

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

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SAUDI-US RELATIONS

Crown Prince Vows To Continue Fight Against Terrorism

Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard, sent a cable of congratulations to US President George W. Bush on July 4, the US Independence Day. Crown Prince Abdullah sent his best wishes to the President and the American people and wished them progress and prosperity. Crown Prince Abdullah also vowed to continue the campaign to "uproot all factors of destruction and terrorism" for the benefit of mankind.

"We avail ourselves of this opportunity to reaffirm, once again, to Your Excellency, our determination to proceed with whatever serves humanity and leads to global peace and stability. This goal can only be achieved, first, through trust in God; and second, through the determination of honest people of the world who vow to enhance whatever it takes to promote peace and honorable living for all peoples of the world," Crown Prince Abdullah said in his cable. Crown Prince Abdullah also expressed his appreciation of the pivotal role of the United States plays in fighting terrorism and reaffirmed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is continuing to work with its friends to uproot all factors of destruction and terrorism.

The Crown Prince added that President Bush's promotion of the Middle East peace process depends on God first, and on the President's "wisdom and experience in reaching a final solution to this thorny issue. We are looking forward to this noble goal which is the objective of all peace loving people of the world." Crown Prince Abdullah concluded by saying the "historical relations between Saudi Arabia and the United States stand as evidence of the depth of the relations between our two people and countries for the benefit of all".

TERRORISM

Top Terror Suspect On New Most Wanted List Killed

Saudi security forces on July 3 killed Younis Mohammed Ibrahim Alhayari, a Moroccan national who was #1 on the Kingdom's newly released most-wanted list. Alhayari was killed in an early Sunday morning raid on two suspected terrorist hideouts in the Rawdah district of Riyadh. Six security officers were slightly injured in the exchange of fire. The identities of the three arrested are

being withheld. Security forces have also seized explosives, weapons, ammunition, communications equipment, computers, and documents from the two locations.

Alhayari, who entered Saudi Arabia on a Hajj visa in early 2001 then overstayed his visa, was considered an expert in explosives and was directly involved in earlier terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia.

On July 1, Fayez Ibrahim Omer Ayyoub, number 29 on the newly released most-wanted list, surrendered to Saudi authorities upon his return to Saudi Arabia.

TOURISM

Kingdom Eases Photography Rules

In a move designed to further promote tourism in the Kingdom, taking photographs in public places will no longer be prohibited, Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Secretary General of the Supreme Commission for Tourism (SCT) said. The decision will enter into force by May 2006 to give relevant agencies and installations time to prepare for the rule changes. The new rule grants major civilian, military and industrial institutions authority to set their own rules.

ECONOMY

Crown Prince Inaugurates Yanbu-2 Projects

Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard, laid the cornerstone for Yanbu-2, the mega industrial project in Yanbu. The SR 115 billion [US \$30.7 billion] project, which is expected to be completed by 2019, will include 34 basic and secondary industries and 224 light industries.

Saudi Telecommunications Company Granted 3G Mobile License

The Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC) has granted a new 3G mobile license to Saudi Telecommunications Company (STC) for a fee of SR753.7 million [US \$201 million].

CITC Governor Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Suwail told *Arab News* Tuesday that CITC has launched Saudi Home Computing Initiative, aimed at bridging the digital divide and bringing modern-day technology into Saudi homes. This initiative, which seeks to raise computer literacy and Internet awareness, will make it easier for a million Saudi families to own personal computers with Internet access and training packages.

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