

# *SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS*

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## **OIL**

### **Saudi Arabia ready to increase oil production as crude prices rise**

On August 29, oil minister Ali Al-Naimi declared that Saudi Arabia is closely monitoring the impact Hurricane Katrina may have on U.S. oil supplies, and stands ready to immediately increase its oil production to 11.0 million barrels per day. He stressed, however, that there is an adequate supply of crude, particularly in the United States where stocks are almost 40 million barrels more than last year at this time.

## **SAUDI-U.S. RELATIONS**

### **Prince Turki Al-Faisal comments on Iraq and the Middle East**

In an interview published in *The New York Times Magazine* on August 28, Prince Turki Al-Faisal, currently Ambassador to the United Kingdom and Ireland and Ambassador-Designate to the United States, was asked about Iraq and anti-Americanism around the world. He replied: "Iraq is an adjunct, but not the core issue. If Iraq is solved, Palestine will remain a sore point for Arabs everywhere."

## **GOVERNMENT**

### **Shura Council to participate in New York conference**

The Consultative Council (*Majlis Al-Shura*) will participate in the second international conference of parliamentary speakers on September 7 to 9, 2005 in New York. The conference will review a number of topics including the role of parliaments in enhancing international cooperation to realize security and peace, and in preserving human rights as well as promoting democracy. The conference is held every five years with the participation of speakers of the parliaments of member states of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), of which the Shura Council is a member.

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