



APRIL 4, 2006

## SAUDI POLICY

### **King Abdullah gives policy address to Shura Council**

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz outlined Saudi Arabia's domestic and foreign policy in an address to the opening session of the Shura (Consultative) Council April 1.

Saudi Arabia will continue to promote unity among Arabs and Muslims and support just Arab causes, particularly the rights of the Palestinians, the King said. Saudi Arabia is part of the international community and its policy will remain based on cooperation and world peace.

Regarding oil, the King said that Saudi Arabia would continue its moderate policy on production and prices to protect the global economy from sudden shocks. He also stressed the Kingdom's commitment to eradicate terrorism, noting that there is no place in Saudi Arabia for extremism.

Turning to domestic policy, King Abdullah said that Saudi Arabia would continue to seek comprehensive development for its citizens and fight poverty.

"We cannot stand still while the world around us changes," he said. "Hence, we will continue the process of development, national dialogue, economic liberalization, corruption fighting, bureaucracy elimination, raising governmental work efficiency and utilizing efforts of all sincere working men and women."

## TERRORISM

### **Forty terror suspects arrested in nationwide operations**

Saudi security forces have arrested 40 suspected terrorists in three different operations over the past two weeks, the Ministry of Interior said March 30.

Some of the suspects in custody are believed to have links to the foiled February 24 attack on the Abqaiq oil facility. The Ministry has not yet released the names of the detained suspects, as the investigation remains ongoing.

The suspects were arrested in simultaneous raids in Makkah, Madinah, Riyadh, the Eastern Province, Qasim, and Asir Provinces after security forces tracked suspicious behavior. They are suspected of stockpiling weapons and electronic devices, providing financial and material support to terrorists, and using the Internet to spread their deviant message and promote violence.



## SAUDI-US RELATIONS

### **Saudi Ambassador meets with business leaders, journalists**

Saudi Ambassador to the US Prince Turki Al-Faisal discussed the importance of Saudi-US relations in remarks to the US-Middle East Free Trade Coalition in March 30. He noted that the business communities of both countries can play an important role in maintaining the Saudi-US relationship, and discussed the steps Saudi Arabia is taking to boost its economy and promote foreign investment.

Prince Turki also met with the Washington Association of Arab Journalists March 29 to review his first 100 days in Washington. He discussed Saudi-US relations, US Middle East policy, the Arab League summit in Khartoum, Saudi efforts to promote unity in Iraq, as well as Iran's nuclear ambitions and the Kingdom's support for a ban on all weapons of mass destruction. He also commented on the Palestinian elections, in particular Saudi Arabia's hope that the new Palestinian leadership would adhere to the Arab Peace Initiative and the road map for peace.

## FOREIGN AID

### **Saudi food baskets to be delivered to Pakistan quake victims**

The Saudi Popular Relief Campaign for the Pakistani People continues to provide ongoing aid to the victims of the October 8 earthquake there. Recently, the organization signed a contract with a local company to obtain 50,000 food baskets from Pakistani markets. The food aid will be transported via trucks to the campaign's warehouses in Islamabad, then distributed to the affected regions.

The first batch of food supplies, approximately 7,000 food baskets, will arrive in Islamabad on April 3, according to the campaign's executive director, Yousef Al-Rubei'an. Each basket contains enough flour, rice, oil, sugar, milk dates and canned food to feed a medium-sized family for a month.

