



MAY 16, 2006

## SAUDI ARABIA-US

### **Second Saudi-US Strategic Dialogue meets May 18**

The Saudi-US Committee for Strategic Dialogue is holding its second meeting on May 18 in Washington. The meeting will be co-chaired by Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

In a May 12 statement, Saudi Ambassador to the US Prince Turki Al-Faisal said that the meeting would deal with a wide range of issues aimed at continuing and enhancing bilateral cooperation between Saudi Arabia and the United States, including counterterrorism, security, economic and energy cooperation, scientific and cultural exchanges as well as international issues. Consulate services at the US Embassy in Riyadh will also be discussed, particularly visas for Saudi students, businesspeople and visitors, Prince Turki said.

### **Saudi ambassador discusses Middle East peace, leadership**

In a keynote address at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars conference in Washington May 10, Saudi Ambassador to the US Prince Turki Al-Faisal stressed the importance of resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and called on the global community to actively work towards such a resolution.

The long-festering conflict must be resolved if the global community is to confront new challenges, particularly terrorism. It is used by terrorists as a recruiting tool and is also one of the root causes of anti-American sentiment in the Arab and Islamic worlds, Prince Turki noted.

The ambassador praised President Bush's call for a two-state solution, and urged the US to keep the process of the Road Map moving forward and to continue supporting the process of disengagement from Gaza and the West Bank. He called on Israel to continue dialogue with the Palestinians, and said that there must be gestures from the new Palestinian government as well.

"The time is now," Prince Turki said. "We have willing peoples on both sides – both Israelis and Palestinians. We have a framework for reconciliation that is outlined in the Road Map for peace. And we have a goal that is articulated in the Abdullah Peace Plan. We simply need the parties to make a move with confidence within this framework."

In remarks on leadership at George Washington University in Washington, DC, May 15, Prince Turki said that leadership is about global cooperation. "I believe, that when we talk about leadership, it is not really about one person or one nation directing others," he remarked. "In truth, leadership is about bringing many people and nations together. It is about the type of cooperation we can secure among many parties. This way we can all contribute to solving the problems that affect us all in this global community."

## TERRORISM

### **Car fires on US consulate in Jeddah**

A car fired on the US consulate in Jeddah May 12, Ministry of Interior said in a statement. Saudi security forces chased the car and a gunfight ensued, in which the car was damaged. An armed individual exited the vehicle and was subsequently apprehended by authorities. The suspect sustained moderate injuries. No one else was injured.

The suspect has been identified as Saudi citizen Muhammad bin Abdelraziq Saad Faidi Al-Ghamidi, 32. According to Al-Ghamidi's medical report, he had previously sought help at psychiatric clinics. It remains unclear whether anyone else was involved in the Jeddah attack.

## FOREIGN AID

### **Kingdom provides \$10 million in food aid to Horn of Africa**

Saudi Arabia is providing food aid to the drought-stricken Horn of Africa, in line with directives of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz. The Saudi Ministry of Finance signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Food Program May 16 to provide \$10 million for food aid.

## SAUDI ARABIA

### **Kingdom plans to become the world's 3rd largest producer of fertilizers**

Saudi Arabia plans to become a major player in the international food industry by becoming the world's third-largest producer of fertilizers, Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA) Governor Amr Al-Dabbagh said in remarks at the Arab Economic Forum in Beirut May 12. He estimated investment opportunities in the energy, electricity, water, and mining sectors at more than \$300 billion, and more than \$100 billion in the transportation sector.

