



JULY 31, 2007

FOREIGN POLICY

King Abdullah meets with leaders of Pakistan and Kuwait

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with the leaders of Pakistan and Kuwait this week for discussions of key regional issues.

The King's July 28 meeting with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf focused on the latest developments in the Islamic and international arenas, as well as ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation. Prior to departing for the Kingdom, President Musharraf said that the talks would also address extremism and terrorism.

On July 29, King Abdullah met with Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Sabah of Kuwait for talks about Gulf, Arab, and Islamic issues, in particular the situations in Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon. They also discussed areas of bilateral cooperation.

Prince Saud attends high-level meetings on Lebanon, Middle East

Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal traveled to Cairo this week to participate in a number of high-level meetings on Lebanon and the Middle East.

On July 29, he attended a four-way meeting on the political development in Lebanon. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa, and French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner also attended the meeting. Kouchner briefed the other attendees on his visit to Lebanon this weekend, where he met with rival Lebanese leaders and brought them together for a luncheon at the French Embassy in Beirut.

On July 30, Prince Saud attended an extraordinary meeting of Arab League foreign ministers. During the meeting, the ministers reviewed reports on the Middle East peace process by the League's Arab Peace Initiative committee and were briefed by Egyptian and Jordanian foreign ministers on their recent talks with Israeli officials.

FOREIGN AID

Kingdom donates flour, school supplies and dates to Pakistan

The Saudi Public Assistance for Pakistan Earthquake Victims this week released \$2 million to provide flour to victims of the October 2005 earthquake that devastated Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province. The aid will be distributed by the World Food Program.



In addition, the organization provided \$700,000 to the READ Foundation schools in Pakistan. The donation will provide at least 22,000 children at 122 schools with bags, paper, uniforms and other essential school supplies.

In related news, Saudi Arabia has provided 180 tons of dates to victims of Pakistan's flood-ravaged Sindh and Baluchistan provinces.

ECONOMY

SAGIA: Foreign investment in Saudi Arabia continues to grow

Foreign investment in the Kingdom has increased considerably over the last three years, the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA) revealed on July 25. In 2006, foreign investments in Saudi Arabia totaled \$18.3 billion [SR68.6 billion]. Domestic investments in the same year totaled \$33.3 billion [SR125 billion].

Saudi Arabia continues to attract foreign investment from countries including the US, Japan, and European Union nations, said Dr. Awad Al-Awad, Undersecretary to SAGIA's governor. He added that in 2006 the bulk of foreign investments were in the field of energy and its derivatives.

Saudi Development Fund financed \$322 million in projects last year

In 2006, the Saudi Development Fund financed 16 development projects worth \$322 million [SR1.21 billion] in 12 developing Asian countries, according to its annual report. In keeping with the Fund's message to support development, the projects spanned sectors with an emphasis on fighting poverty, including health, education, urban development, transport, telecommunication, agriculture and energy.

As part of the Saudi Export Program, the Fund also signed 15 financing agreements worth \$305 million [SR1.14 billion] to export national non-oil products to Arab countries and \$459 million [SR 1.72 billion] for Saudi exports to other countries.

