



OCTOBER 30, 2007

## SAUDI-US RELATIONS

### **Laura Bush visits Saudi Arabia to promote breast cancer awareness**

First Lady Laura Bush visited Saudi Arabia on October 23 as part of her tour of the Middle East to promote breast cancer awareness.

In Riyadh, Mrs. Bush toured the Abdullatif Cancer Screening Center, Saudi Arabia's first-ever community cancer screening center. There, she delivered the keynote address at the launch of the US-Saudi Arabia Partnership for Breast Cancer Awareness and Research. The partnership, the first of its kind between Saudi Arabia and the US, is expected to contribute positively to the treatment of breast cancer in the Kingdom.

That evening, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with Mrs. Bush at the royal palace in Jeddah to discuss the partnership's work to overcome breast cancer. She also met with Saudi breast cancer survivors to discuss their decision to speak openly about the disease.

### **GCC Finance Ministers: No need to change the riyal's US dollar peg**

After a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministerial meeting in Jeddah on October 27, Governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) Hamad Al-Sayyari said that participants discussed disengaging the Saudi riyal from the US dollar. They unanimously agreed that there is no need to change the riyal's US dollar peg or the current exchange policy at the present time.

## FOREIGN POLICY

### **King Abdullah begins 13-day official tour with visit to Britain**

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz arrived in London October 29 for a three-day official visit to Britain. The King is currently on a 13-day tour that will also take him to Italy, Germany and Turkey.

During his visit, King Abdullah will receive an official welcome from Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, attend a state banquet, meet with Prime Minister Gordon Brown and attend a dinner hosted by the Lord Mayor of London. The King will also meet separately with Prince Charles to discuss the prince's charities in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia and Britain are expected to sign a number of bilateral agreements, including a joint statement; an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation; and Memoranda of Understanding on education and sports cooperation.

### **King Abdullah: Peace summit must take Palestinian needs seriously**

In October 29 BBC interview, King Abdullah said that it is too soon to say whether Saudi Arabia would attend a US-proposed peace summit in Maryland next month. The King stressed that any such conference would fail unless all parties make a serious effort to address key issues.

“Our Palestinian brethren are not optimistic, and I think that if good arrangements are not made for the conference, and if serious work is not done for the issues that concern the Palestinians and the Arab and Muslim world, I think it will not be successful,” the King said.

### **Crown Prince Sultan urges Iran not to provoke any party**

Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz has urged Iran not to provoke any party, saying that provocative statements against Gulf countries are not in Iran’s interest. The Crown Prince was responding to a question on Iran’s readiness to attack Gulf countries in the event the US takes military action against Tehran. He also said that Saudi Arabia would not be a runway or base for foreign powers.

The Crown Prince made the remarks on October 26 after opening the new Saudi Embassy in Kuwait, where he has been on an official visit.

## **SAUDI ARABIA**

### **Saudi Arabia elected to UNESCO Executive Board**

Saudi Arabia was elected to the 58-member UNESCO Executive Board at its General Assembly meeting in Paris October 24. The Kingdom will be represented by Deputy Minister of Boys Education Dr. Saeed Al-Mileis, who holds a PhD in education from Indiana University. Dr. Al-Mileis previously served as a member of the Shura (Consultative) Council and as Director-General of the Arab Bureau for Education in the Gulf States.

