



JUNE 10, 2008

ENERGY POLICY

Kingdom calls for meeting to address rising oil prices

At a June 9 meeting chaired by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, the Cabinet said that market fundamentals do not justify the current increase in oil prices. The Cabinet directed Oil Minister Ali Al-Naimi to call for a meeting soon to bring together representatives of oil producing and consuming nations and companies operating in oil production, exports and sales to look into the rise in prices, its cause, and how to deal with it objectively.

As a major producing country, Saudi Arabia realizes that there is sufficient supply and increasing commercial inventory, the Cabinet said. It noted that the Kingdom coordinates with OPEC countries and major producers to ensure adequate supply, and seeks to address unjustified increases in oil prices that may affect the global economy.

FOREIGN POLICY

King Abdullah opens Islamic dialogue conference in Makkah

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz opened the International Islamic Conference for Dialogue in Makkah June 4. In his remarks, King Abdullah highlighted the importance of interfaith dialogue, particularly at a time when the Muslim nation is combating extremism.

"We are the voice of justice and human moral values, and we are the voice of rational and just coexistence and dialogue," he said. "How great this nation is, how difficult the challenges it faces in a time where its enemies – extremists from its sons and others – join forces to change its fair approach. They are gathered with blatant aggressiveness to target the tolerance, justice and noble purposes of Islam."

Nearly 500 delegates from 50 countries attended the three-day conference, which was organized by the Makkah-based Muslim World League (MWL).

Crown Prince: Arab countries can solve internal disputes

In a June 8 interview with *Asharq Al-Awsat*, Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz said that Arab countries are capable of solving their internal disputes peacefully if they make serious and credible moves. He also stated that the Kingdom would continue its efforts within the framework of the Arab platform to reinforce world peace and stability.



The Crown Prince also expressed the hope that the Doha Agreement would lead to a stable and prosperous Lebanon.

Saudi Arabia, Spain call for dissolution of militias in Iraq

Crown Prince Sultan paid an official visit to Spain June 5-8. The visit included talks with King Juan Carlos, Crown Prince Felipe and Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero on Middle East peace and ways of strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

In a joint communiqué issued June 8, Saudi Arabia and Spain called for the dissolution of all armed militias in Iraq to reinforce security and bring stability. They also emphasized the need to expand Iraq's political process by ensuring the participation of different groups in the government.

The two countries also highlighted the importance of enhancing Saudi-Spanish cooperation to support the Middle East peace process, and called for more positive steps to establish peace in the region.

SAUDI-US RELATIONS

King Abdullah meets with White House Homeland Security adviser

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Kenneth L. Wainstein for talks on issues of mutual interest in Jeddah June 9. Attendees at the meeting included Saudi Ambassador to the US Adel A. Al-Jubeir and the US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ford Fraker.

First graduates of Saudi scholarship program recognized in Washington

The Saudi Cultural Attaché's office in Washington this weekend recognized the first graduates of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz scholarship program. The first batch of graduates included seven doctorates, 142 master's and 49 bachelor's degrees.

In an address delivered on his behalf by Khaled Alanagri, DCM, Saudi Ambassador to the US Adel A. Al-Jubeir characterized the scholarship program as a milestone in the field of education and development. The student address was delivered by Dr. Iman Mohammed Ali, who received a PhD in neurology from Harvard.

