



JUNE 17, 2008

## ENERGY POLICY

### **King Abdullah to attend Jeddah oil summit**

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz will attend the upcoming meeting between oil producers and consumers, Oil Minister Ali Al-Naimi said June 13. The meeting is scheduled to be held in Jeddah on June 22.

In remarks to the press, Al-Naimi said that the meeting will address rising oil prices that are unjustified by market fundamentals and propose solutions for dealing with them. The summit is expected to contribute positively to the stability of global oil markets, he added.

Major oil producing and consuming countries were invited to the meeting, including OPEC member states, Russia, Norway, Mexico, Brazil, the US, the UK, Germany, France, Japan, China, India and South Africa. Also invited were the International Energy Forum, OPEC, the International Energy Agency, the European Commission for Energy and major oil companies.

At its June 16 meeting, the Cabinet welcomed the positive international reaction to the summit and reiterated the Kingdom's support for global market stability as well as cooperation between producers and consumers.

## FOREIGN POLICY

### **King Abdullah meets with Jordanian monarch, UN Secretary-General**

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with King Abdullah II of Jordan in Jeddah June 15. The two leaders discussed developments in Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq in addition to other international issues and ways to boost bilateral cooperation.

On June 14, the King met with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Jeddah. Their talks focused on the Palestinian situation, the Middle East peace process, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Somalia and UN efforts to resolve conflicts in the region.

### **Cabinet welcomes cease-fire in Somalia**

At its June 16 weekly meeting, the Cabinet welcomed the cease-fire between the Somali government and the Alliance for the Liberation of Somalia. It expressed the hope that the cease-fire would be a step towards a permanent political agreement that brings peace and stability to the country.



## SAUDI ARABIA

### **Major projects launched at the King Abdullah Economic City**

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz laid the foundation stone for educational, IT, electricity, real estate and infrastructure projects worth \$34.6 billion at the King Abdullah Economic City (KAEC) in Rabigh June 11.

Launched in December 2005, KAEC is the largest private sector investment in the Kingdom. It has already attracted more than \$26.7 billion in investments.

## SAUDI-US RELATIONS

### **Shura Council delegation pays visit to Washington**

A delegation from the Saudi Majlis Al-Shura (Consultative Council) is currently in Washington for a week-long visit to the United States. The visit aims to enhance Saudi-US relations on the governmental level.

While in Washington, the delegation is expected to meet with US elected officials as well as think tanks. The delegation consists of Council members Dr. Bandar Al-Eiban, Eng. Osama Al-Kurdi, Yousuf Al-Maimani and Dr. Khalid Al-Awwad, as well as an advisor to the Council, neonatologist Dr. Nuhad Al-Jishi.

### **Embassy sponsors blood drive for World Blood Donation Day**

The Saudi Embassy in Washington sponsored a blood drive June 10 in honor of World Blood Donation Day, which was June 14. After a luncheon at the Embassy, some 30 staff members participated in the drive at the American Red Cross headquarters in Washington.

## FOREIGN AID

### **Kingdom donates relief aid to Afghanistan, Palestinian refugees**

Saudi Arabia handed over 300 tons of relief aid to the Afghan Red Crescent Society June 11 to ease drought-related suffering. The aid includes 12,000 boxes of foodstuffs; 1,000 tents; 3,000 blankets; and 1,000 rugs.

Also this week, the Saudi Popular Campaign for the Relief of the Lebanese People announced that it is providing medicines and medical supplies worth \$1 million to the Nahr Al-Bared and Beddawi refugee camps in Lebanon.