



August 19, 2008

FOREIGN POLICY

King Abdullah holds talks with Egyptian president

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz held talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria, Egypt Friday. The two leaders discussed key Arab, Islamic and international issues, including the Palestinian situation, Iraq and Sudan. They also reviewed Saudi-Egyptian relations. King Abdullah arrived in Egypt earlier in the day after a private visit to Morocco where he also met with King Hamad of Bahrain.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudis proactively seeking help for relatives misled by extremism

The Ministry of Interior issued a statement Wednesday welcoming the efforts made by Saudi citizens to protect their families from deviants who exploit the religious beliefs of youths in an effort to recruit them for suspicious purposes.

The Ministry said that family members have taken the initiative to contact the authorities and request help for family members who have been misled by deviant thought. The Ministry urged all citizens to report the sudden absence of a relative or a shift in a family member's attitudes or tendencies.

TERRORISM

Kingdom strongly condemns Tripoli bombing

Saudi Arabia has strongly condemned the bombing of a bus in the Lebanese city of Tripoli Wednesday. In a statement, the Kingdom denounced the "heinous terrorist crime" that threatens the security and stability of Lebanon at a time when its people are seeking reconciliation. Saudi Arabia also reiterated its support for Lebanon and urged the Lebanese people to strengthen the security of the state through dialogue.

FOREIGN AID

Saudi cardiac surgeons treat more than 200 children in Yemen

A Saudi medical team has performed more than 200 successful cardiac surgeries on children in Yemen. The 40-member team from the Prince Sultan Cardiac



Center is in Yemen for several weeks as part of a program to treat Yemeni children suffering from congenital heart defects. The program is designed to enhance cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Yemen in the medical field.

The head of the Saudi medical team, Dr. Huwaida Outhami, said that in addition to the surgeries her team performed, more than 600 Yemeni children suffering from complex congenital heart defects have been examined.

ECONOMY

IMF projects the Saudi economy to continue strong growth in 2008

In a new report issued Tuesday, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) welcomed Saudi Arabia's strong economic performance in 2007 and stated that the outlook for 2008 remains favorable.

According to the IMF, the economy is expected to grow 5 percent in real terms in 2008, up from 3.5 percent growth in 2007. The report also expects oil output to rebound to 9.2 million barrels/day with increasing growth in the non-oil sector.

The IMF welcomed the Kingdom's plans to expand oil production and refining capacity to support global market stability. It recommended that Saudi Arabia continue to invest in infrastructure, education and public services with the aim of diversifying the economy and encouraging job creation.

Also praised were Saudi efforts to liberalize the financial sector and the Kingdom's substantial assistance to developing countries.

Jubail Chevron set to start exports

Saudi-based Jubail Chevron Phillips Co. petrochemical company said Saturday it plans to export its first shipment next month. The Jubail-based firm will produce an annual 750,000 tons of styrene and 150,000 tons of polypropylene.

SIIG holds a 50 percent in Jubail Chevron Phillips Co. Chevron Phillips Chemical Company holds an unspecified stake in Jubail Chevron Phillips Co. which was built at a total cost of SR4.5 billion [\$1.2 billion].

