



DECEMBER 29, 2009

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

### **King Abdullah calls for stronger GCC union**

The 30<sup>th</sup> Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit in Kuwait re-confirmed the solidarity between GCC member states, King Abdullah said during a recent interview with Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Siyasah. The King noted that many vital projects were approved, which will serve the economic and developmental interests of the entire region.

## SAUDI-U.S. RELATIONS

### **Saudi health care facilities partner with U.S. experts**

The Ministry of Health and Microsoft Corp on December 23 signed a memorandum of partnership to develop health services, particularly in the fields of information technology and communication.

Last week, Minister of Health Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabeeah announced that the King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital in Riyadh and the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore, Maryland signed a cooperation agreement. He also announced that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will serve as a consultant for the Kingdom's new National Health Laboratory, which is expected to become a world-class research facility.

## FOREIGN AID

### **IIRO to carry out 500 surgeries in Nigeria**

The Jeddah-based Islamic International Relief Organization (IIRO) has organized a campaign to fight cataract disease, a leading cause of blindness, in Daura City, Katsina State, Nigeria. A medical team, consisting of four ophthalmologists from Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Pakistan, has already conducted initial examinations of more than 2,000 cases. A total of 500 patients are expected to undergo surgical operations.

