



JANUARY 17, 2012

SAUDI ARABIA-U.S. RELATIONS

Minister of Defense receives U.S. Representative Eric Cantor

Minister of Defense Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz received the Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Eric Cantor, and his accompanying delegation in Riyadh on Jan. 11. During the meeting, the two sides discussed various topics pertaining to U.S.-Saudi relations. Rep. Cantor and his delegation also met with Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ali Al-Naimi. Their discussion focused on the international oil market, particularly the importance of cooperation between producing and consuming nations in order to maintain market stability. They also talked about bilateral cooperation in the oil, mining and environmental sectors, especially the promotion of joint investments.

Prince Saud holds talks with President Obama, Secretary Clinton

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal conveyed a message from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz to U.S. President Barack Obama during a meeting at the White House on Jan. 10. Following the message, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and regional and international developments. The Saudi Foreign Minister also met with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the State Department. In a press statement, Saudi Ambassador to the U.S. Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir characterized Prince Saud's talks with the U.S. president and secretary of state as fruitful and constructive.

SAUDI ARABIA

Winners of King Faisal International Prize for 2012 announced

The winners of the King Faisal International Prize (KFIP) for 2012 were announced at an awards ceremony in Riyadh on Jan. 16. The KFIP, awarded in five categories, is the King Faisal Foundation's way of honoring and supporting intellectuals and scientists. This year, Suleiman bin Abdulaziz Al-Rajhi of Saudi Arabia was declared the winner of the KFIP in the service to Islam category. The prize for Islamic Studies went to Adnan bin Mohammad Al-Wazin of Saudi Arabia. In the field of Arabic language and literature, Egyptians Ali Hilmi Ahmad Moussa and Nabil Ali Mohammad shared the prize. Dr. Richard Berkowitz and Dr. James Bruce Basil, both Americans, shared the prize for medicine, and another American, Dr. Alexander Farzewski, won the science prize.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

King Abdullah receives British Prime Minister, Chinese Premier

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz received British Prime Minister David Cameron and an accompanying delegation at his palace in Riyadh on Jan. 13. The two sides reviewed international developments and discussed ways of promoting Saudi-British cooperation in a variety of fields. Two days later, King Abdullah received Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and his delegation. During their talks, Wen conveyed the greetings of Chinese President Hu Jintao, and the two sides discussed Saudi-Chinese relations and global issues. Afterwards, in the presence of the King Abdullah and Premier Wen, a number of Saudi-Chinese cooperation accords were signed.

FOREIGN AID

World Food Program hails Saudi Arabia's support

The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) has expressed the organization's gratitude to Saudi Arabia for its generosity and partnership. A statement marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the WFP noted that the Kingdom is the fifth largest donor supporting its activities, contributing \$54 million to the relief organization's budget in 2011. Meanwhile, Director General of the U.N. Office in Geneva, Oqasim-Jomart Toqayev, opened a photo gallery on Jan. 12 reflecting five decades of partnership between Saudi Arabia and the WFP.

Distribution of meat in West African nations begins

Under the supervision of the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the distribution of Hajj sacrificial meats to beneficiaries in West Africa began Jan. 11, when a shipload of 10,000 kg of frozen meat arrived in Banjul, Gambia. On Jan. 14, the ship continued to Dakar, where it unloaded another 10,000 kg shipment for the Senegalese people.

Saudi Arabia donates medical supplies to Pakistan

Saudi authorities have donated medical materials and equipment to assist the Pakistani people in the state of Khyber Pakhtoon Khwa. According to a statement issued by the Saudi Embassy in Islamabad, the donation from the Saudi Development Fund (SDF) was delivered at a special ceremony held in Peshawar on Jan. 12. During the handover, Regional Health Minister of Pakistan Zaher Ali Shah thanked the Kingdom for its continuous support for the Pakistani people.

