



SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

COUNTERTERRORISM

Prince Mohammad bin Nayef slightly injured in terrorist attack

Assistant Minister of Interior for Security Affairs Prince Mohammad bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz received minor injuries on the evening of August 27 after a terrorist blew himself up at the Prince's residence in Jeddah, according to a statement released by the Royal Court. The bomber, identified as a terror suspect who indicated a desire to turn himself into Prince Mohammad, was going through security to enter a gathering of Ramadan well-wishers when he detonated an explosive device strapped to his body. Shortly after the incident, Prince Mohammad was taken to the hospital, where he was examined, treated for minor injuries and released.

During the weekly Cabinet meeting held in Jeddah on August 29, the ministers praised the continuous efforts exerted by Saudi security forces to stage pre-emptive attacks against terrorist groups and to fight the spread of extremist ideology. It confirmed that Saudi Arabia will continue its endeavor to wipe out terrorism in the Kingdom and to uproot illegal funding sources.

ECONOMY

Saudi economy grows, inflation declines sharply

The 45th Annual Report of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) was submitted to the Minister of Finance this week. Reviewing the Kingdom's latest economic developments, the report highlighted the strong growth of the Saudi economy in 2008, the sixth consecutive year of major growth. It also noted that the Kingdom's annual inflation rate declined from 11.1 percent in July 2008 to 4.2 percent in July 2009.

FOREIGN AID

Crown Prince gifts 12 tons of dates to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon

Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon Ali Assiri delivered 12 tons of dates to the UN Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Beirut on August 26. The dates were a gift from Crown Prince Sultan to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon on the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan. Charge d'Affaires of the Palestinian Embassy in Lebanon Khalil Al-Halabi expressed his thanks to the Kingdom and its

leadership for the gift. A representative from UNRWA, Laila Qissi, added, "In the name of UNRWA, we thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for this generous gesture in this blessed month."

EMBASSY ACTIVITY

Ambassador Al-Jubeir hosts Iftar dinner

Saudi Ambassador to the United States Adel A. Al-Jubeir hosted an Iftar dinner at the Embassy in Washington on August 25. The event was attended by a number of guests, including Arab and Islamic ambassadors, presidents of Islamic societies in the U.S., and members of the Embassy staff. Ambassador Al-Jubeir congratulated them on the blessed month of Ramadan, wishing them many happy returns, blessings and prosperity.

