

Key players in the ruling Al Saud family

A visit by Saudi Arabian King Abdullah to the U.S. for medical treatment has raised the issue of succession in the world's largest oil exporter



King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, 86: Signed decrees keeping **mufti** – kingdom's top Islamic scholar – chief of staff, assistant head of royal protocol and ambassador to U.S. in their posts for further four years



Crown Prince Sultan, 82: King Abdullah has appointed his half-brother deputy prime minister and minister of defence, to administer nation's affairs in his absence. Prince Sultan is receiving cancer treatment



Prince Nayef, 76: Interior minister since 1975 and second deputy prime minister since 2009. Brother of Sultan, Nayef played crucial role combatting **Al Qaeda** campaign to destabilize kingdom from 2003-06



Prince Salman, 70: Governor of Riyadh since 1962. Has reputation for fairness, arbitrates in royal disputes. Brother of Sultan. Owns **Asharq al-Awsat** newspaper. Underwent spine surgery in U.S. last August



Prince Muqrin, 65: Intelligence chief's public profile has risen in recent years, acting as mediator between Pakistan's political factions. Son of King Abdul Aziz but unlikely to succeed owing to his non-royal mother



Prince Mishaal, 84: Brother of King Abdullah, appointed as chairman of **Allegiance Council**, 35-member group of sons and grandsons of Saudi Arabia's founder, **King Abdul Aziz**, tasked to select future monarch

Other players – grandsons of King Abdul Aziz

Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, 51: Son of Prince Nayef

Prince Khaled bin Sultan, 61: Son of Crown Prince Sultan

Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, 55: Nephew of King Abdullah

Prince Khaled Al Faisal, 69: Son of late King Faisal bin Abdul Aziz

Prince Turki Al Faisal, 65: Son of late King Faisal bin Abdul Aziz

Prince Mitab, 59: Son of King Abdullah

Prince Bandar, 60: Son of Prince Sultan