

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

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FOREIGN AID

SAUDI ARABIA PROVIDING MEDICAL AID TO DARFUR

The Saudi Red Crescent Society has rehabilitated the Al-Zahra Medical Center in El Fasher, as part of the Kingdom's relief aid to the war-stricken region of Darfur in western Sudan. Five other Saudi clinics are already operating, in southern as well as northern Darfur. On August 15, Saudi Arabia pledged SR 40 million [U.S. \$ 10.7 million] in basic humanitarian aid. Since then, a Saudi medical team has been working in the region, providing urgent health care to the displaced; and six planes have flown in with relief materials such as foodstuffs, tents and blankets as well as medicine and medical equipment, including ambulances. On August 28 President of the Saudi Red Crescent Society Abdulrahman Al-Suweilim completed a tour of the Kingdom's aid sites in northern Darfur.

ECONOMY

INTERNATIONAL OVERLAND TRANSPORT CENTER PLANNED

The Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) is working on a U.S. \$ 530 million project to establish an international bus transport center serving more than 400,000 passengers annually to destinations in the Middle East, North Africa and East Europe. A joint-stock company is being formed to raise capital for the project. Currently, there are more than 50 transport companies operating international bus services from Jeddah, with offices scattered all over Jeddah. All of these would benefit greatly from the new center.

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