

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

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FOREIGN AID

Kingdom holds telethon to raise money for Pakistan

King Abdullah opened a nationwide telethon to raise money for the victims of the October 8 earthquake in Pakistan by donating SR 10 million [US \$2.7 million]. The King's donation is in addition to a grant of SR 500 million [US \$133 million] to rebuild Pakistan's infrastructure and provide emergency relief.

Crown Prince Sultan donated SR 5 million [US \$1.3 million], while Prince Alwaleed bin Talal donated SR 20 million [US \$5.3 million]. As of October 23, the telethon had raised more than SR 121 million [US \$32 million]. The telethon, which began October 22, will continue until through the month of Ramadan.

Saudi relief planes continue to arrive in Pakistan

More Saudi relief planes have arrived in Pakistan, in line with a directive by King Abdullah to provide aid to victims of the October 8 earthquake. The latest plane, the 14th, arrived in Pakistan October 23 carrying 72 tons of tents and other relief supplies. A Royal Saudi Air Force cargo plane also arrived carrying 11 tons of medicine, other relief supplies and special iftar meals for the Saudi field hospital in Manshera.

INTELLIGENCE

King Abdullah names new General Intelligence chief

King Abdullah has appointed Governor of Madinah Province Prince Meqrin bin Abdulaziz director of General Intelligence, at the rank of minister, the Royal Court announced October 22.

OIL

Cabinet dissolves Petromin

In its October 24 session, the Cabinet dissolved the General Organization of Petroleum and Minerals (Petromin) and transferred its lands to the Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Aramco).

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