



SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

ISLAM

Saudi leadership highlights peace, dialogue in Ramadan address

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz addressed the nation August 31 on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan, which began September 1.

In their address, King Abdullah and Crown Prince Sultan stressed that Islam is a religion of tolerance that seeks to foster dialogue among religions, civilizations and cultures.

“Our Islamic religion is a religion of love, mercy and tolerance ... Its way is for dialogue, love and active participation in making human civilization.”

As the home of the Two Holy Mosques, Saudi Arabia seeks to promote peace and justice for all mankind and fulfill its role of serving Muslim interests “to embody their dialogue with the cultures, societies and other world religions,” they said.

The King and Crown Prince also said that Ramadan is a time for renewing the values of Islam, which include mercy, forgiveness, compassion and the spirit of kinship.

FOREIGN POLICY

King Abdullah holds talks with emir of Qatar

King Abdullah met with Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani at the royal palace in Jeddah August 30. Sheikh Hamad paid a brief one-day official visit to the Kingdom.

The two leaders discussed regional and international issues as well as ways of boosting bilateral cooperation in all areas. King Abdullah also hosted a luncheon in honor of his royal guest.

FOREIGN AID

Saudi aid distributed to flood-stricken Mexico, Afghanistan

Saudi humanitarian aid was delivered to Afghanistan August 28 to alleviate the suffering caused by recent floods in the eastern part of the country. The Saudi



Committee for Relief of the Afghan People also distributed assistance to 500 families in the Kacha Garhi camp in Peshawar, Pakistan.

In Mexico City, Saudi Ambassador to Mexico Munir Ibrahim Punjabi handed over \$2 million worth of agricultural machinery and equipment to Mexican officials for the flood-stricken province of Tabasco.

Saudi organization donates food, emergency aid to Lebanon

The Saudi Popular Campaign for the Relief of the Lebanese People donated food baskets for the impoverished in Lebanon September 2. The baskets were turned over to Lebanese officials for distribution to those in need.

This week, the campaign also distributed emergency rations to displaced people affected by events in the Lebanese city of Tripoli, particularly the areas of Jabal Mohsen and Bab Al-Tabbanah.

In related news, Lebanese Minister of Public Works and Transport Ghazi Aridi on August 29 inaugurated the Saudi-funded reconstruction of the ancient Damoor Bridge, which was destroyed in the summer of 2006.

