



August 17, 2010

## SAUDI ARABIA

### **King, Crown Prince address Saudi citizens on advent of Ramadan**

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz addressed the citizens of Saudi Arabia on the advent of the holy fasting month of Ramadan, which began August 11. In a joint speech, they reiterated that Islam is a faith of amicability, mercy and tolerance and that it follows the approach of goodness, reformation and construction through dialogue and effective participation in building the human civilization. Emanating from this, they continued, the Kingdom must always undertake its responsibility towards defending Islam, working for the service of Muslim interests, and entering into dialogue anew with the world's other cultures, societies and religions aiming at building a civilized and cooperative world based on the concepts of peace, justice and faith for all mankind. Ramadan, King Abdullah and Crown Prince Sultan concluded, provides the opportunity to reiterate the commitment of all souls towards those values and goals.

### **Royal order limits issuing of fatwas**

King Abdullah issued a royal order on August 12 limiting the issuing of fatwas (religious edicts) to members of the Council of Senior Ulema [Council of Senior Scholars] and others specifically permitted to issue such rulings. The order excludes unannounced, individual, private fatwas pertaining to rituals, dealings and personal matters. The royal order noted that anyone violating these restrictions will be punished.

## FOREIGN AID

### **National campaign to aid Pakistan raises \$20.5 million on first day**

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' Campaign for the Relief of the Pakistani People was launched on August 16 to raise money for victims of severe flooding in Pakistan. A total of SR 77 million [\$20.5 million] was donated on the first day of the campaign. King Abdullah donated SR20 million [\$5.33 million]; Crown Prince Sultan donated SR10 million [\$2.67 million]; and Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz donated SR5 million [\$1.33 million].

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia has continued airlifting relief materials to flood-stricken regions of Pakistan. As of August 16, a total of 18 Saudi planes had delivered

blankets, tents, medical supplies and foodstuffs to several different cities. The Saudi Embassy in Islamabad is supervising all operations supporting the airlift and the process of distribution and delivery of assistance to those in need.

### **IDB extends \$11 million in relief aid for flood victims in Pakistan**

The Executive Directors of the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) approved a grant of \$11 million for relief efforts in flood-ravaged Pakistan at a meeting held August 11 under the chairmanship of IDB President Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali. The Directors also approved allocations worth \$620.4 million for financing new development projects in Morocco, Sudan, Egypt, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Gambia, Mauritania, Uzbekistan, Iran, Guinea and Cameroon. Additional assistance was allocated to Muslim communities in Argentina, Brazil, Ethiopia, Georgia, Paraguay and the Ukraine.

### **Saudi Arabia delivers tents, dates to Senegal**

A Saudi plane arrived in Senegal on August 12 carrying 1,000 tents weighing 70 tons. The tents will be provided to victims of recent flooding. A committee comprised of representatives of the Finance Ministry and the Saudi Embassy in Dakar has been formed to coordinate with the Senegalese government the delivery of the assistance to UN organizations working in Senegal. Additionally, on August 10, the Saudi Embassy in Senegal handed over 150 tons of palm dates as aid from the Kingdom to the Senegalese people. The delivery took place at a ceremony attended by a number of Saudi and Senegalese officials.

### **Saudi Popular Campaign provides financial assistance to Lebanon**

The Saudi Popular Campaign for the Relief of the Lebanese People gifted a check for SR 150,000 [\$40,000] to the Mufti of Lebanon on August 16. The donation was handed over by Bader bin Abdulrahman Al-Samhan, the Acting Director of the Campaign's Beirut Office. The financial assistance will go towards the rehabilitation of a health center affiliated to Dar Al-Fatwa of Lebanon.

## **EMBASSY ACTIVITY**

### **Saudi Ambassador hosts Iftar for Arab and Muslim ambassadors**

Saudi Ambassador to the U.S. Adel bin Al-Jubeir hosted an Iftar (fast-breaking dinner) for Arab and Muslim ambassadors at the Saudi Embassy in Washington on August 17. Muslim leaders and members of the Saudi community in Washington also attended the traditional Ramadan event.

