

Saudi National Day

The Ambassador's Message

'A Friend in Need is a Friend Indeed'

By the Grace of Allah, the Merciful, the people of Saudi Arabia are celebrating the Kingdom's 60th national day today in the midst of joy and determination to achieve further peace and progress in future. This day is a day of great historical significance for the nation and also fitting occasion for its people to recall how an illustrious son of the Kingdom, King Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, utilised his political wisdom and farsightedness to lay the foundation of a socially strong and politically unified country according to the principles of Islam and aspirations of the people. Rapid progress in various national sectors, including education, health, transportation, agriculture and industry have placed the

Kingdom among the very few most modern and developed nations of the world. Saudi Arabia is now implementing its fifth five-year plan (1990-95) which calls for government expenditure of 201 billion dollars, with modest annual increases from 38 billion dollars in 1990 to 42 billion dollars in 1995. The fifth development plan envisages overall economic growth of around 3.2 per cent a year. The most dramatic indicators of Saudi Arabia's economic growth are the expansion of Saudi 'Aramco', the Kingdom's mammoth oil producer, and Saudi Arabian Basic Industries (SABIC) which is primarily a petrochemicals manufacturer. Although Saudi Arabia today enjoys a well-diversified economy, its wealth is primarily

based on vast oil resources which is estimated to be around 25 per cent of the world's proven reserve.

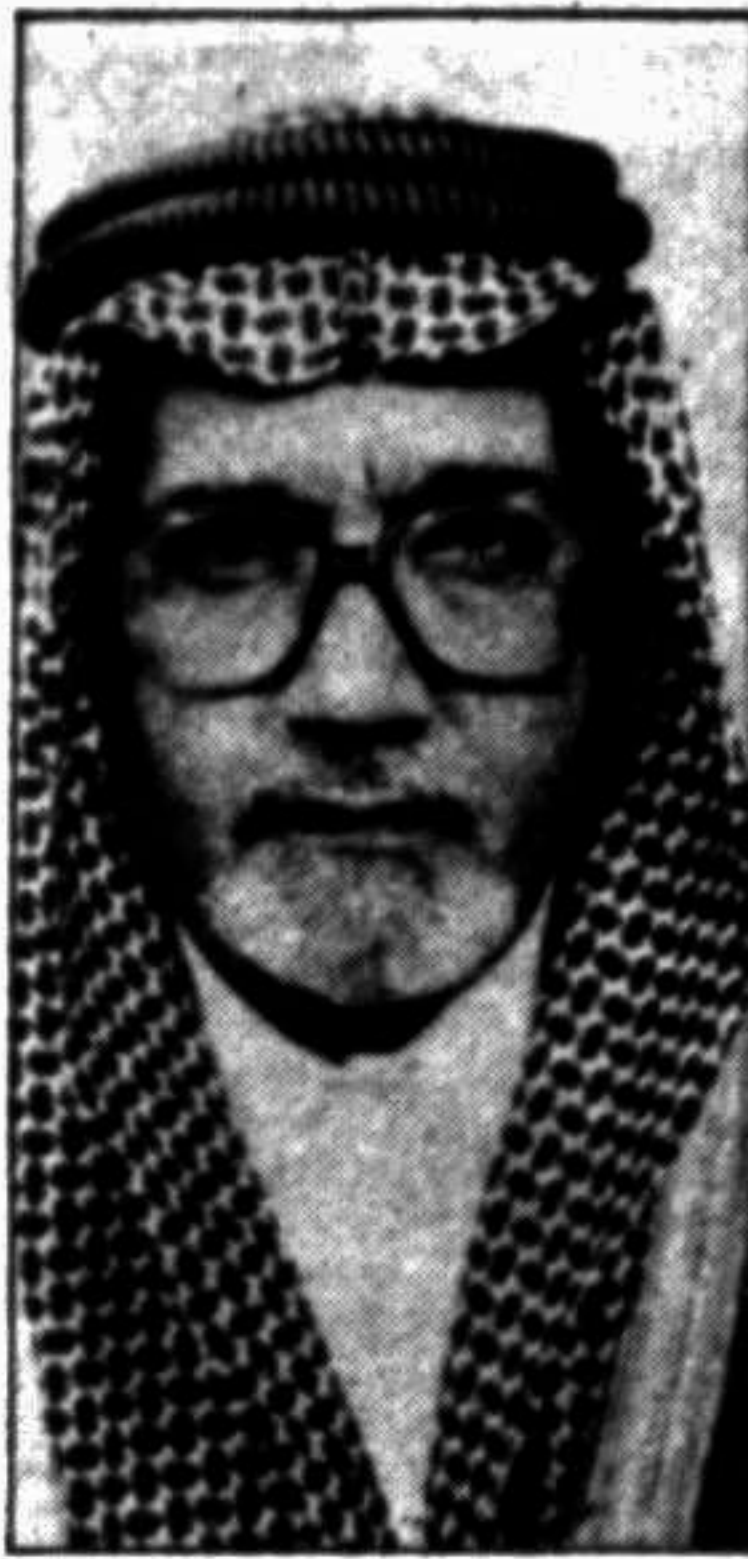
Saudi Arabia's social system has been unique under the leadership of King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, which has succeeded in creating a sense of cohesion and unity among the people. This wonderful unity and cohesion was witnessed during the Gulf crisis. King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz's 'open-door' policy has strengthened the legacy of Saudi brotherhood which has turned out to be the greatest assets for the nation.

Saudi Arabia's steadfast adherence to Islam has strengthened its foundation and the Kingdom is proud of its practice of Shariah. King Fahd has reaffirmed on many occasions that unity among the Islamic countries and their adherence to Islamic tenets would make them victorious ultimately.

Inshallah, Saudi Arabia will strictly follow the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah in all its affairs. The Kingdom will not implement any system or ideology that contradicts the teachings of Islam which has proved to be the best way of life for mankind. To serve the cause of Islam has been therefore the prime concern of the Saudi people and government.

Saudi Arabia is a peace-loving country and will use all the means at its disposal to work for peace. The whole world witnessed how the Saudi Arabian leaders tried their best during the Gulf crisis to prevail upon the Iraqi leaders "to listen to the voice of reason and the call of conscience". Saudi leaders, including King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, made every possible effort at all levels to avoid the critical circumstances which the Arab nations were passing through during the unfortunate Gulf crisis.

Saudi Arabia's request for military assistance was in response to Iraq's violation of all norms and rules and defiance of the international legitimacy. Saudi Arabia's policy all



Ambassador Al-Maimanee

through the Gulf crisis was guided by its anxiety to achieve world peace by achieving stability and prosperity of the Arabs and protect the region against all dangers and tensions. The Kingdom is contributing its mite for the success of the new peace initiative in the Middle East.

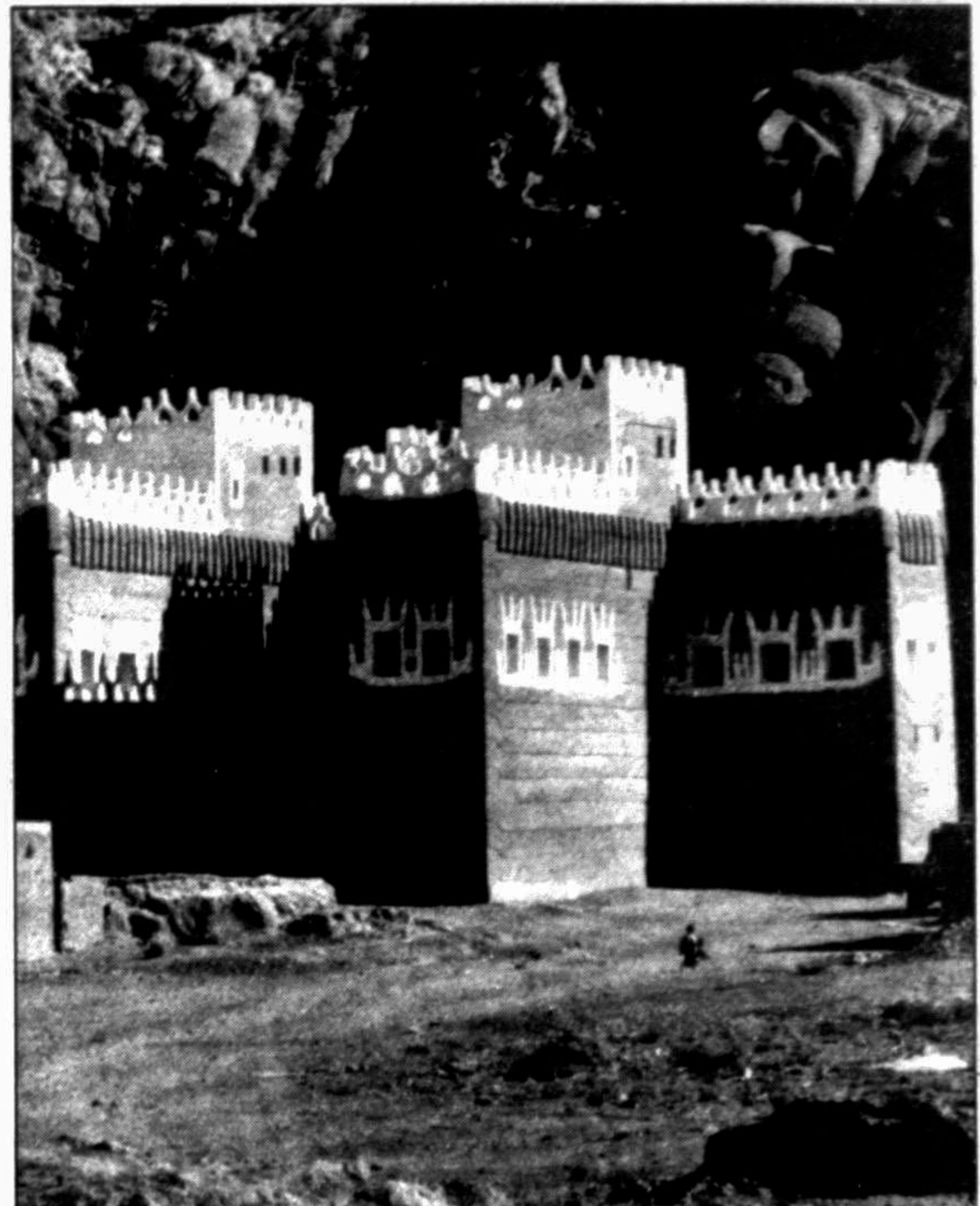
It may be appropriate here to mention that relations between Saudi Arabia and



Bangladesh stands on a very strong footing. By now both the nations have proved that the depth of the fraternal relationship between them have repeatedly shown that these two countries are partners in development. The saying goes: "A friend in need is a friend indeed".

Bangladesh's spontaneous response to Saudi Arabia's request for troops attained historical significance as the gesture showed Bangladesh's deep concern for the safety of the holy shrines of Islam. By deploying a token force in Saudi Arabia Bangladesh has proved that she and Saudi Arabia have a deep commitment to each other's welfare and security.

When in April last the devastating cyclone hit the coastal areas of brotherly Muslim country of Bangladesh it was certainly the turn of Saudi Arabia to reciprocate. The Kingdom was the first to react upon the sad news of the devastating cyclone. Under special instruction from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King



Ancient : A sandcastle in Najran.

Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz several Saudi flights rushed to Dhaka with initial help such as food-stuff, blankets, tents, medicines etc. to mitigate sufferings of the cyclone victims.

King Fahd's special instruction to concerned Saudi government authority to allocate an amount of 400,000,000/ (106 million US dollar) to help for reconstruction of the devastated area and voluntary raising of funds by Saudi private philanthropic organizations and visit of the representatives of Islamic World Relief Organization to the affected areas, and above all, formation

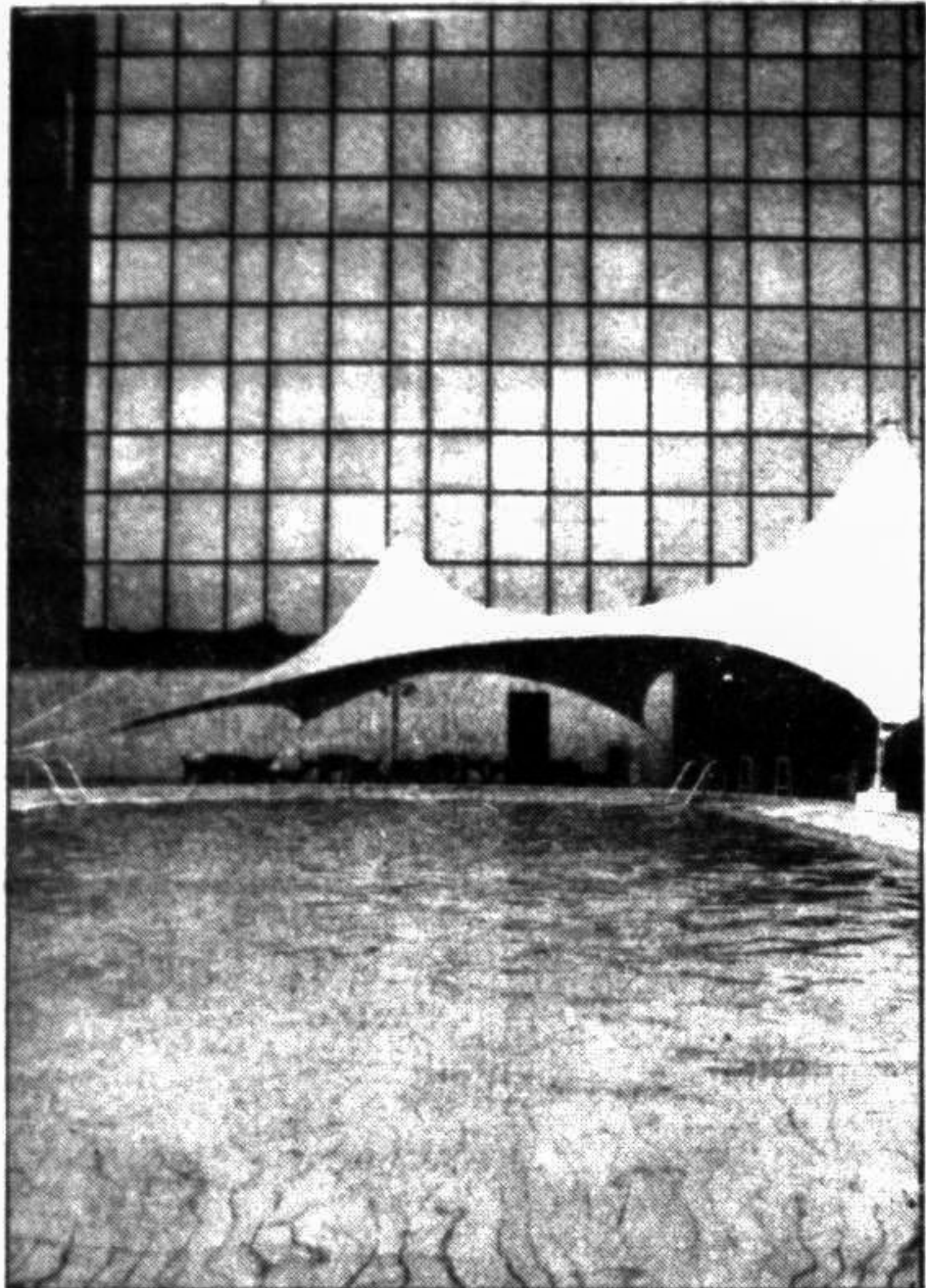
of fund raising committees by the Governor of Riyadh Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, and the Governor of Aseer, Prince Khaled Al-Faisal, as well as other generous people of different regions of Saudi Arabia.

The eight projects in which the Saudi grant will be utilised envisages construction of multipurpose buildings to accommodate schools, mosques, clinics which can also be used as shelters during disasters, construction of houses for the worst victims, reconstruction of two telecommunication towers at Chittagong and micro-wave telecommunication

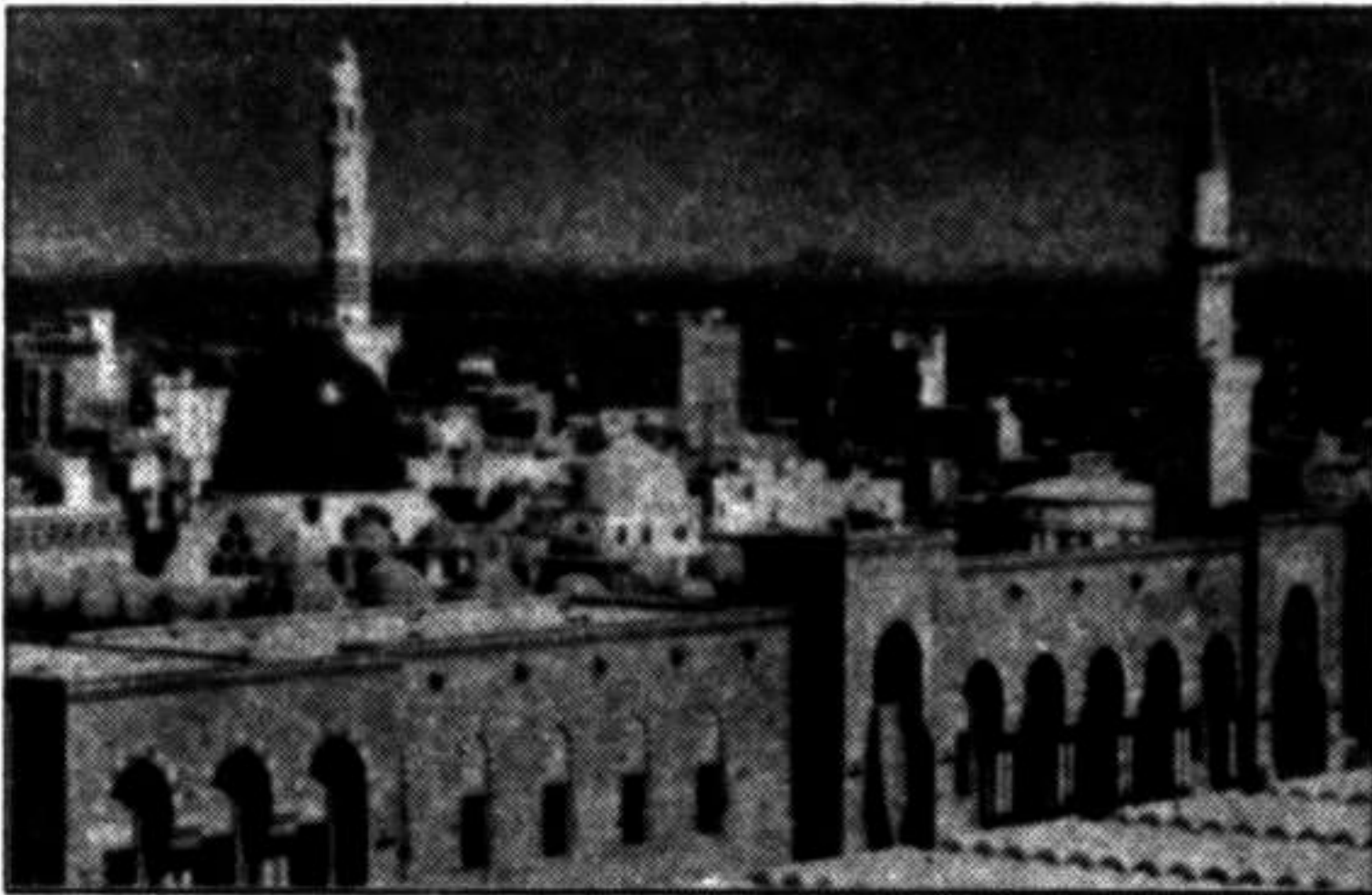
link at Betbunia and Chittagong, supply of drinking water, reconstruction of food storage godowns, import of fertilizer, restoration of electricity transmission line and reconstruction of embankments in the coastal areas.

May Allah give us strength to hold fast our unshakable faith in Him so that we can fulfil our obligations towards the welfare of the Muslim Ummah, and for that matter, the humanity at large.

—Abdullah Al-Maimanee, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Bangladesh



Ultra-modern : Jeddah wears a 21st century look.



Holy Land : The Prophet's mosque at Medina

Heartiest Felicitations to the Government and the Brotherly People of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on their National Day



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