



# National Day of Saudi Arabia



The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

September 23, 2000

## King Abdul Aziz : His Glorious Achievements

THE Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was built on the strong foundation of the oneness of God and submission to the judgement of God's Holy Book and the Traditions of His Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him. Its quest for a better life took off racing time and setting records, so that within few short decades it took its prominent place in the world of today.

King Abdul Aziz built a vast state occupying four-fifths of the Arabian peninsula and called it in 1351 H. (1932 AD) "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia". He named it, having unified its component parts and brought the people together in peace, with justice and security. He set this day, the first day of the sign of Libra, 23 September to be the National Day of his Kingdom. A day the nation has celebrated every year, recalling with pride the deeds of the Great Founder.

King Abdul Aziz followed in the footsteps of the leaders of the two Saudi states that rose and fell in this region. The first Saudi state emerged in the middle of the eighteenth century through the alliance of the ruler of Diriyah, Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud with the Islamic reformer Sheikh Muhammad Ibn Abdul Wahab. The aim of the alliance was to spread true Islam and purify the faith and rid it of the superstitions and heresies that attached themselves to it over centuries of ignorance. The first fruit of that era was the unification of the disparate regions, the gathering of the tribes and the acceptance of the rule of God's law. A just society living in peace over vast areas of the Arabian Peninsula and beyond. Eventually, the State came under the pressure of foreign interference and wars, leading to its demise and the return of the Peninsula to its former chaotic self. It pained Abdul Aziz, who settled with his family in Kuwait to see the chaos and disintegration in his land. He swore to regain his heritage at all cost. Thus, it was on 5 Shawwal 1319 H (15 January 1902 AD) that he succeeded in recapturing Riyadh which turned out to be the springboard for the unification of the country. He fought battle after battle, and strove for the next 31 years to bind the nation together and proclaim, with God's help, the establishment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The people of the Peninsula saw the nobility of his cause and flocked time of fulfilment.



when the dream of unity, security and stability was made manifest.

**STAINCH BELIEF IN GOD:** Abdul Aziz, driven by a staunch belief in God, an iron will and an instinctive understanding of the needs and aspirations of his people, succeeded in overcoming obstacles and laying the foundation of the young state under the banner of "There is no divinity but God and Muhammad is the Messenger of God." He then set about the task of building the structures of a modern state. He began to open the doors to a bright future for his people. One of his first acts was to implement a scheme to settle nomadic bedouins into settled communities, he called "Al-Hijir" to which he brought instructors, teachers and experts in many fields. He began to release the productive potential of the people, being careful to heed the needs and

aspirations of all the people of the Kingdom.

The security of the Hajj (pilgrimage) roads was one of his main objectives. Pilgrims to Makkah and visitors to the Mosque of the Prophet in Madinah feared for their lives when undertaking those journeys. He rid the roads of miscreants and secured a safe passage for travellers to the holy places.

**SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE HOLY PLACES:** King Abdul Aziz paid special attention to the holy places. During his reign, Al-Haram Mosque in Makkah was renovated and vastly improved while the Mosque of the Prophet in Madinah saw a substantial enlargement to accommodate the ever increasing number of visitors.

King Abdul Aziz was the first to call for Islamic solidarity. He believed in the unity and cooperation between the peoples of the Muslim world, for the good

of humanity as a whole. He set up the first Islamic Conference in Makkah in 1346 H. (1926 AD).

His young state had an intimation of good fortune when oil was discovered in the Eastern Province in 1938. Then the meagre income from oil helped the Kingdom to accelerate development in the country. Many projects came to fruition, such as the rail line connecting the capital Riyadh with the Eastern Province, opened in 1371 H. (1951 AD); the establishment of a national airline in 1945; the inauguration of broadcasting; and several others up and down the country.

The King paid special attention to education. He sought the spread of learning to all parts of the Kingdom. He paid generous grants to students and initiated the production and free distribution of text books. He set up the General Directorate of Education in 1926 and entrusted it with the task of opening and administering schools. In the same year the Saudi Scientific Institute was set up.

This is the establishment that produced much of the talents that was to run government departments and the private sector. A school to prepare students for foreign scholarships was established and at the beginning of the fifties, the Kingdom's first two colleges were opened. These were the College of Humanities and the College of Sharia in Makkah, whose main task was to tutor judges and teachers. Young Saudis were sent abroad to study at universities in Arabic

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## King Fahd : A Pioneer of Progress

THE spectacular development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of the Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz is considered as a story of achievements which laid the foundation of future advances and set a solid economic base that propelled the nation into the forefront among the productive and exporting nations. The overall economic development also enabled the Saudi society to catch up with the best in the world through scientific and educational advances, particularly during his tenure of office as the Minister of Education. History will record many initiatives of this distinguished Arab and Muslim leader which were good for the citizens of the Kingdom as well as for the Arab and Muslim worlds. Serving the causes of world peace and fostering international understanding are main objectives at the heart of his efforts in the international arena. The concentrated efforts and regular initiatives of the Kingdom towards this end testify to his wise leadership. Conscious about his responsibilities towards the Muslim World, his efforts have contributed to end many conflict among Muslims and relief of many tragedies that befell them. The role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in bolstering Islamic solidarity and narrowing differences among Muslims - a guiding principle of Saudi policy since the days of the founder King Abdul Aziz - is an Islamic tenet enjoined so as to serve the unity of the Muslim World.

**EARLY YEARS :** The Custodian of the two holy mosques



partments; (4) Seek eventually to achieve self-sufficiency in the number of Saudi teachers in all stages of education. Fahd's objectives in education have all been achieved. The success of his policy is exemplified in the educational facts of the Kingdom today. There are more than 22,000 schools, more than 40 lakh students of both sexes, seven universities, numerous specialised colleges and institutes and sprawling fully-equipped university cities.

**AS INTERIOR MINISTER :** When he took over the minister of interior in 1962, he set about reorganising it to meet the demands of a modern society. He saw through his experience as minister of education that science and organisational discipline are necessary to raise standards of performance. One of his early initiatives was the establishment of the College for Internal Security Forces (now King Fahd Security College) for training of the security personnel in theoretical, practical and military sciences at university level. He also established a number of institutes for training non-commissioned officers and other ranks. During his stewardship, the Ministry of Interior took on responsibility for national security, the Coast Guard, Civil Defence, Criminal Affairs, Municipal Affairs, Regional Emirates and all their supporting establishments.

**AS HEAD OF DELEGATIONS ABROAD :** He headed the Kingdom's delegation to the 33rd session of the Council of the Arab League held in Casablanca in 1959 and the extraordinary session convened in Shtaura in Lebanon in 1960. He also headed the Saudi delegation to the first session of the summit of Arab heads of government held in Cairo in the same year. He was appointed as Second Deputy Prime Minister in 1967, in addition to his portfolio of interior ministry, which gave him an opportunity to preside over meetings of the Cabinet. In 1970 he led the Saudi delegation to Britain for negotiations about the future of the Arabian Gulf in the wake of Britain's decision to evacuate area. He also headed the Kingdom's delegation to the Conference of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) held in Algiers in 1975. To foster relations between the Kingdom and the world at

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### MESSAGE



Today, 23rd September 2000 coincides with the anniversary of the great unification of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This occasion, in fact, is considered to be a glorious Day in the history of the Nation.

On this Day, we recall with pride and dignity the memories of our great leaders. On this Day, His Majesty, late King Abdul Aziz Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Saud, founder and architect of the Nation, had succeeded in unifying the whole Arab Peninsula and gave it the name of "Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and placed it under the lofty banner of Monotheism (La Illaha Illallahu Mohammadar Rasullullah).

His Majesty, late King Abdul Aziz, who is considered to be one of the towering personalities of modern history, finally succeeded, through a strenuous journey of struggles, to re-unite and re-build the state of Saudi Arabia.

The first emergence of Saudi Arabian state occurred in the seventeen century when Imam Mohammad Bin Saud, first founder of Saudi state, with the support of Sheikh Mohammad Bin Abdul Wahab, had given a clarion call for preaching the ideal Islamic Sharia; May Allah bless them with His mercy.

In spite of extreme difficulties and many challenges that His Majesty late King had to face in order to unify the nation and get it back on the right track (third phase of unification) he was miraculously successful in maintaining the fabric of the entity of the society and enhancing its bonds. It may be mentioned here that the society was then passing through 'dark days' witnessing internecine fighting and conflicts. But His Majesty late King with his even-handed justice and able administration united the society and firmly connected the whole people with the injunctions of the Holy Quran and the teachings of the Prophet of Allah as their constitution.

After His late Majesty, the charges and the banner had been carried by His sincere and devoted sons- His Majesty King Saud, His Majesty King Faisal and His Majesty King Khalid. May Allah bless all of them with His eternal blessings. After their majesties, the charge is now being shouldered by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahad Bin Abdul Aziz. May Allah save him. The Kingdom during the blessed era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has achieved leaps in respect of modernization as well as social developments, which were acknowledged by the enemies even before the friends. During his glorious time, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has been able to see the completion of the great expansion of the Two Holy Mosques - a unique project that has been so dear to him. The Two Holy Mosques now expanded are able to accommodate large numbers of Umra and Haj pilgrims who have appreciated his untiring efforts towards the expansion of the Two Holy Mosques.

The aforesaid sacrifices, efforts, developments and flourishing were not only limited to the Kingdom but also went beyond its border to reach to the brotherly and friendly countries through help and assistance. It may be mentioned here that the grants given by Saudi Arabia to the People's Republic of Bangladesh comes to more than one billion US Dollars that have been used in the building of multi-purpose cyclone shelters in the coastal areas and other different projects in Bangladesh.

I wish that with the blessings of Allah the bonds of friendship between the Kingdom and Bangladesh would witness more and more development and flourishing in the days ahead.

I would like to conclude with an earnest prayer to Almighty Allah to bring back this happy occasion for many years to come to Saudi people and the Islamic Ummah under the dynamic leadership of The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques King Fahad Bin Abdul Aziz, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz and His Royal Highness Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz.

**Abdullah Bin Mohamed Al-Obaid Al-Namla**  
Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Bangladesh.

We extend our heartiest felicitations to His Highness the King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, the Government and the Brotherly People of Saudi Arabia on their glorious National Day



Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz



Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, The Crown Prince and Deputy Premier and Head of the National Guard



**B.A. ASSOCIATES**

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40/3 Inner Circular Road (1st Floor), Naya Paltan, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh, Phone : 9353564, 9342125, Fax : 880-2-9342125 (West Side of Janaki Cinema hall)

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