



Crown Prince Abdullah : Dedicated to service of people

FOR some five decades, crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz has been closely involved in the profound changes that have taken place in Saudi Arabia, working with five Kings as they successfully brought about far-reaching socioeconomic development while preserving and strengthening the foundations of Saudi society -- commitment to Islam and Arab heritage.

Under the guidance of his elder brother the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz, who appointed him Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister in 1982, Crown Prince Abdullah has assisted in the implementation of the country's series of development plans and in King Fahd's efforts to ensure the nation's peace and prosperity as well as serving Islam and the Muslim community.

Born in Riyadh in 1924, Crown Prince Abdullah received his early education at the royal court. Growing up around his legendary father, King Abdul Aziz Ibn Abdul

Rahman Al-Saud, who was at that time involved in the successful effort to unify the tribes of the Arabian Peninsula into the modern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Crown Prince Abdullah demonstrated early on an abiding commitment to Islam and a keen interest in Arab history, culture and traditions. Like King Abdul Aziz's other sons, he was tutored by scholars in Islam and Arab history and underwent the rigorous training that the King demanded of all of them. To develop the physical and mental strength of his sons, King Abdul Aziz is quoted as saying: "I train my own children to walk barefoot, to rise two hours before dawn, to eat but little, to ride horses bareback" and to study the Holy Quran, the Sunnah (teachings and sayings of the prophet Muhammad) and Arab history. As they came of age, the crown Prince and his brothers spent much time in their father's daily majlis, meetings where any citizen could approach the King and discuss a grievance or concern. In this way, they learned the intricacies of

statesmanship and the art of communication with people.

To develop a strong bond with the people, a deep respect for their heritage and understanding of their aspirations, King Abdul Aziz desired that his sons spend time with the bedouins in the desert. The years Crown Prince Abdullah spent living with the tribes instilled in him a respect for their values, simplicity, generosity and bravery and strengthened his desire to serve the people.

Crown Prince Abdullah's close association with the affairs of government and the people continued after King Abdul Aziz passed away. He acted as advisor to King Saud Ibn Abdul Aziz and later to King Faisal Ibn Abdul Aziz and was deeply involved in the internal affairs of the Kingdom.

In 1962 Crown Prince Abdullah was appointed to command the Saudi National Guard, which was formed from the descendants of bedouins who were King Abdul Aziz's followers during the years he



Crown Prince Abdullah

Prince Abdullah has represented the Kingdom at various international conferences, including summit meetings of member states of the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and the Non-Aligned Movement. He has met with world leaders in Saudi Arabia and conducted state visits to other countries, including the United States.

While performing all these duties, Crown Prince Abdullah has steadfastly supported efforts to preserve Saudi Arabia's rich heritage. As chairman of the organizing committee for the Jeddah National Culture and Heritage Festival, he has overseen the two-week festival held annually since 1985 to promote a greater respect for and a deeper understanding of Saudi Arabia's rich past, its dynamic present and its promising future.

Throughout his life, Crown Prince Abdullah has retained a love of the desert, which is reflected in his patronage for equestrian clubs, the Crown Princes' Camel Race and other activities associated with the bedouins. He also has developed a passion for knowledge and reading. He has established two libraries, the King Abdul Aziz Library in Riyadh and one in Casablanca, Morocco.

After decades of public service in positions of importance, Crown Prince Abdullah is today recognized not only in Saudi Arabia, but also in the Arab and Islamic worlds, as a leader dedicated to ensuring his country's continued future development while preserving past achievements.

King Abdul Aziz

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development in the country. Many projects come 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 other projects.

Spread of Education: 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. By early 50s 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 Western countries.

Education was not the King's only concern; he also built roads, opened hospitals and introduced modern methods of government. Simultaneously King Abdul Aziz paid attention to the Kingdom's position among the nations of the world and sought to enhance it on the Arab, Islamic and International levels. He entered into treaties and established relations with all nations. Saudi Arabia was a founder member of the United Nations Organisation whose charter the Kingdom signed in San Francisco in 1945. King Abdul Aziz took on and vigorously defended the just cases of the Arab and Islamic worlds.

A Protagonist of World Peace: The Kingdom was a founder member of the Arab League that saw the light in 1944. King Abdul Aziz stood side by side with Arab states struggling to rid themselves of colonialism and foreign interference. He put all his weight behind the Palestinian cause and his famous meeting with American President Roosevelt in 1945 and the exchange of letters with him about Palestine are notable examples of his efforts on behalf of the people of Palestine and the struggle for their legitimate rights and their usurped homeland. He sought to secure world peace by ensuring justice and human rights for all.

Arab and Foreign historians have placed King Abdul Aziz among the world's great leaders. Volumes have been written eulogising his heroism, his many talents and his unique personality. He was a great and pious leader and an astute politician. He passed away on 2 Rabi Al-Awwal 1373 H (9 November 1953). In his death the Arabs lost a great statesman.

The people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as they enjoy today the fruits of his labour and shelter under his great legacy, they remember with pride their leader's striving and his victories. His sons who trod the same path, have succeeded in achieving what he strove so valiantly for; that is, progress, peace and prosperity.

Warmest Greetings to the Government and the Brotherly People of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on their National Day



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was working to establish the modern Kingdom. Given his knowledge of the tribes of Saudi Arabia and their heritage, which was accumulated over years of close association with the tribal elders and members.

Crown Prince Abdullah worked tirelessly to modernize the National Guard and make it a potent force committed to the preservation of the Kingdom's peace and security. He supervised the establishment of military and technical schools with a view to modernizing the force, as well as the establishment of hospitals, clinics and housing facilities for guard members and their families.

On the succession of King Khalid Ibn Abdul Aziz, Crown Prince Abdullah was appointed to the prestigious position of Second Deputy Prime Minister, while

retaining his command of the National Guard. In 1982, King Fahd appointed him Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince. With his appointment to the position of Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister, Crown Prince Abdullah intensified his involvement in the ongoing national development program, as well as with the Kingdom's foreign relations. At the side of King Fahd Crown Prince Abdullah became intimately involved in major foreign policy issues, such as Saudi Arabia's relations with Arab, Islamic and other countries, its efforts to resolve crises, including the civil war in Lebanon, the factional fighting in Afghanistan, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Middle east peace process.

As King Fahd's emissary, crown

Saudi education system: Free and open to all

OPEN to every citizen, the Saudi education system provides students with free

education, free books and free health services. The Kingdom puts emphasis on education because of its critical importance in developing the human potential of the country. The objectives of Saudi educational policy are to ensure that education becomes more efficient to meet the religious, economic and social needs of the country and to eradicate illiteracy among Saudi adults. One yardstick of the Government's substantial commitment to the education sector is the fact that the government always allocates over 25 per cent of the total budget allocation to this important, sector. Perhaps, a parallel not to be found anywhere in the world.

At present, Saudi Arabia's nationwide education system comprises eight Universities, more than 24,000 schools, a large number of colleges and other educational and training institutions. Education is a central aspect of family and community life in Saudi Arabia. Parents are deeply involved in their children's education. The close links between home and school serve to reinforce the structure of the community and the nation. King Fahd, The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques, has often stressed how the youths of Saudi Arabia are the country's most valuable resources on which the future of the Kingdom depends.

How the System Developed: At the time the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was founded by King Abdul Aziz in 1932, education was not accessible to everyone. It was limited to individualised instruction at religious schools in the mosques in urban areas. These schools taught Islamic law and basic literacy skills. Some 70 years later, Saudi Arabia now has a nationwide educational system that provides free training from pre-school through university to all citizens. While the study of Islam remains at its core, the modern Saudi Educational system provides quality instruction in diverse fields of modern and traditional arts and sciences. This diversity helps meet the Kingdom's growing need for highly educated citizens for the overall economic and social developments of the country.

Formal primary education began in Saudi Arabia in the 1930s. By 1945, King Abdul Aziz had initiated an extensive programme to establish schools in the Kingdom. By 1951, the country had 226 schools with 29,887 students. In 1954, the Ministry of Education was established, headed by then Prince Fahd as the minister of education.

The first university of Saudi Arabia, now known as King Saud University, was founded in Riyadh in 1957.

General Education: The general education in the Kingdom consists of kindergarten, six years of primary school and three years each of intermediate and high school. The Ministry of education sets overall standards for the country's educational system and also oversees special

Warmest felicitations to the government and the Brotherly People of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on their

National Day



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Our Warmest Felicitations from the core of our heart to the Government & the brotherly people of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the auspicious occasion of Saudi National Day

We wish progress and happiness of the Government & the People of the Kingdom & hope the fraternal relationship between the two countries will be further strengthened & remain everlasting.



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