



# NATIONAL DAY OF Saudi Arabia



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## King Abdul Aziz

A staunch believer and protagonist of world peace

**K**ING Abdul Aziz built the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 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. Saudi Arabia's quest for a better life took off under his leadership, racing against time and setting new economic records. And, consequently within a few decades the Kingdom took its legitimate and prominent place in the comity of nations.

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, 23 September, to be the National Day of his Kingdom. The nation celebrates this day every year and recalls with pride the deeds and achievements of its 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 Bin Saud with the Islamic reformer Sheikh Muhammad Bin 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 condition. The situation pained Abdul Aziz who was living with his family in Kuwait. He swore to regain his heritage at all cost. At last on 5 Shawwal 1319 H (15 January 1902 AD) he succeeded in recapturing Riyadh, which turned out to be the springboard for the unification of the country. He fought battles after battles, and strove for nearly 31 years to bind the nation together and proclaim the establishment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The people of Peninsula saw the nobility of his cause and flocked together under his banner.

**Strong Belief in God:** Abdul Aziz, driven by a strong belief in God, strong will and an instinctive understanding of the needs of the hour and aspirations of his people, succeeded in overcoming obstacles and laid the foundation of the young state under the banner of:

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## Late King Fahad

A pioneer of peace and progress

**T**HE spectacular development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques late King Fahad 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 first 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 late King Fahad was born in 1923 and grew up close to his father, late King Abdul Aziz, the founder of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He received his early education at the hands of selected tutors and then he joined the Saudi Scientific Institute in Makkah, which was primarily devoted to the teaching of religion and the Arabic language. He was known at an early age to be fond of attending his father's audience chamber. This helped to develop his personality and acquire the qualities of leadership. His father saw his early promise, his diplomatic sense, his early maturity and his prudence. He gave him some responsibilities, the first of which was, in 1945, membership of the Saudi Arabian delegation to the opening sessions of the United Nations, headed by the late King Faisal who was then Prince Faisal, the Foreign Minister.

**As Minister of Education:** He was appointed Minister of Education of the newly established Ministry in 1953. Thus becoming the first head of a formal Education Ministry in the history of the Kingdom. He began by drawing up a far-reaching education policy, the fruits of which are still being enjoyed by the people of Saudi Arabia. The objectives of his education policy included:

1. Making all stage of education available to each and every citizen throughout the country.
2. Initiation of higher education through the establishment of universities. The first of



which was King Saud University set up in Riyadh in 1957, the first university in the Arabian Peninsula.

3. Increasing scholarships for foreign educational facilities to enlarge the pool of qualified Saudis available to staff the Kingdom's education system and serve in government departments.

4. Seek eventually to achieve self-sufficiency in the number of Saudi teachers in all stages of education. Fahad's objectives in education have all been achieved. The success of his policy is exemplified in the education facts of the Kingdom to-day. There are more than 23,000 schools, more than 45 lakh students of both sexes, seven universities, numerous specialized colleges and institutes.

**As Interior Minister:** When he took over as the Minister of Interior in 1962, he set about reorganizing it to meet the demands of a modern society. He saw through his experience as minister of education that science and organizational 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 Fahad Security College) for training of the security personnel in theoretical, practical and military sciences at university level.

**As King:** Upon the death of King Khaled on 21 Shaban 1402 H (13 June 1982 AD) the ruling family and the Saudi people pledged allegiance to Fahad Bin Abdul Aziz as the fifth King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the then Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, President of the National Guard, was proclaimed Crown Prince. On the same day King Fahad appointed the then Crown Prince Abdullah as First Deputy Prime Minister and commander of the National Guard and Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz as Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Aviation. Since then Saudi Arabia has achieved many success in various sectors of the national life, maintaining the Kingdom's utmost security and stability under the able guidance of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. There has been a qualitative transformation in the system of government with the promulgation of the four new laws, namely, the Basic Law of the Government, the Shura Council Statute, the Regional Administration Statute, and the Statute of the Council of Ministers.

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## King Abdullah

Dedicated to the service of the people

**F**OR nearly six decades, the new King of Saudi Arabia Abdullah Bin 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 socio-economic 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 late King Fahad Bin Abdul Aziz, who appointed him Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister in 1982. The then Crown Prince now King Abdullah has assisted in the implementation of the country's series of development plans and in former King Fahad's efforts to ensure the nation's peace and prosperity as well as serving Islam and the Muslim community.

Born in Riyadh in 1924, King Abdullah received his early education at the Royal court. Growing up around his legendary father, King Abdul Aziz Bin 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. King Abdullah demonstrated 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 King Abdul Aziz 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 then 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 the then 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.

**Role in Arab world:** As an ardent exponent of Islamic solidarity, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques late King Fahad played a prominent role in dealing with the problems of the Arab world.

In 1962 the then 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



was working to establish the modern Kingdom.

The then 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 modernising 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 Bin Abdul Aziz, the then Crown Prince Abdullah was appointed to the prestigious position of Second Deputy Prime Minister, while retaining his command of the National Guard. In 1982 former King Fahad appointed him Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince. With his appointment to the position of Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister, the then 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 late King Fahad the then 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 late King Fahad's emissary, the then Crown Prince Abdullah has represented the Kingdom at various international confer-

ences, including summit meetings of member states of the League of Arab States; the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). 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, the then Crown Prince now King Abdullah has steadfastly supported efforts to preserve Saudi Arabia's rich heritage. As chairman of the organising 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, King Abdullah has retained a love of the desert, which is reflected in his patronage for equestrian clubs, the 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, the new King Abdullah is today recognised 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.

## MESSAGE



**T**ODAY, September 23, 2005 coincides with the great unification of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This memorable occasion is 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 Ilaha Illallahu Mohammadur Rasulullahu).

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 rebuild the state of Saudi Arabia.

The first emergence of Saudi Arabia state occurred in the seventeenth 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 able, sincere and devoted sons-His Majesty King Saud, His Majesty King Faisal, His Majesty King Khaled and His Majesty King Fahad. May Allah bless all of them with His eternal blessings. After their Majesties the onerous responsibility is now being shouldered by The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz upon whom the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have placed their trust. May Allah save him. During the time of late King Fahad Bin Abdul Aziz and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Saudi Arabia reached the pinnacle of the glory of civilisation. During their glorious time the Great Expansion work of the Two Holy Mosques was completed. They now accommodate largest possible numbers of Umra and Haj pilgrims.

The aforesaid sacrifices, efforts, developments and flourishing were not only limited to the Kingdom but also went beyond its border to reach the brotherly and friendly countries through generous 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 Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz. Long live Saudi-Bangla friendship.

**Abdullah M Al-Obeid Al-Namleh**  
Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Bangladesh

Our Heartiest Felicitations to the Government, Royal Family and the Brotherly People of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of their

## National Day



His Majesty King  
Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz



His Royal Highness Crown Prince  
Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz



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His Majesty King  
Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz



His Royal Highness Crown Prince  
Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz



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