



NATIONAL DAY OF Saudi Arabia



The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

SEPTEMBER 23, 2008



Late King Abdul Aziz: Founder of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz: Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques



Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz

MESSAGE

Today, September 23, 2008 coincides with the 78th anniversary of the completion of the Unification of the Arabian Peninsula and establishment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a modern independent state.

This is, indeed, a glorious day in the history of the people of Saudi Arabia. On this day, we recall with pride and dignity the sweet memory of the Unification of Arabia at the hand of the great founder King Abdul Aziz Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Saud, may Allah bless him, who established a new state in the name of "Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" and placed it under the lofty banner of Monotheism "La ilaha illallah Muhammad Rasulallah." His Majesty, late King Abdul Aziz, who is considered to be one of the renowned makers of modern history, succeeded through a strenuous journey of struggles to reunite and rebuild the state of Saudi Arabia.

After His Majesty the founder King, the charges and the banner had been carried by his able, honest and wise sons - His Majesty King Saud, His Majesty King Faisal, His Majesty King Khaled and His Majesty King Fahd. May Allah bless them all. After their Majesties the onerous responsibility is now being shouldered by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz to whom the people of Saudi Arabia have pledged their allegiance, may Allah protect him. During the time of King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia reached the pinnacle of progress, prosperity and development, which are being witnessed by the critics as well as the supporters. During his glorious time the great expansion work of the Two Holy Mosques and remarkable development of other Holy sites of Haj were completed. They now accommodate the largest possible numbers of Umrah and Haj pilgrims (more than four million pilgrims). Millions of pilgrims from all over the world are being immensely benefited from these giant expansion and development projects.

materials amounting to USD 150 million equivalent to Tk 10.5 billion for the flood and the cyclone Sidr affected brethren in Bangladesh. At present a Saudi relief team, with cooperation of the Bangladesh government, is working round the clock to distribute these relief materials in different affected areas of the country. But the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not try to interfere into the internal affairs of any country through providing its relief assistance.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, may Allah protect him, took initiative of holding two international conferences. One was held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah last June for discussion with the world renowned Islamic scholars and thinkers to settle the principle of dialogue with the followers of other religions based on the authentic books of the Islamic Shariah and for preparation of holding the other conference for Interfaith-dialogue among the followers of divine messages which was subsequently held in Madrid, Spain last July. His Majesty's patronage and inauguration of the conference has gained world appreciation for taking this initiative for establishing world peace.

I pray to Almighty Allah to bring back this sweet and happy occasion for many years to come to the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Ummah under the dynamic leadership of our able and wise guardians the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz and under the auspices of distinct and excellent relations existing between the two brotherly countries, Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh, in an atmosphere characterized by love, peace, safety and stability.



Abdullah Naser Al-Busairy
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Bangladesh

Our Heartiest Felicitations and Greetings to the Government, Royal Family and the Brotherly People of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the Auspicious Occasion of Their

National Day



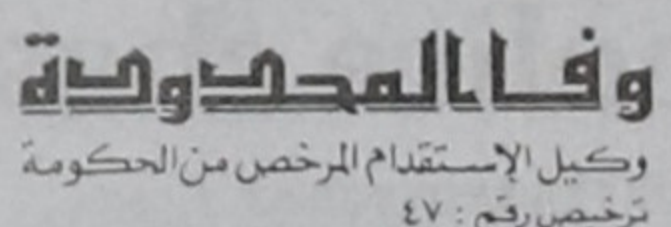
His Majesty King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz

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Saudi Arabia at a glance

Official title: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
Capital: Riyadh (Population three million).

Government: Monarchy. Head of State the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz.

Area: 900,000sq. miles.
Population: 2,26,70,000 (2004)
Language: Arabic. English is widely spoken.

Religion: Islam. As the birthplace of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and the site of Islam's Holy cities of Makkah and Madinah, Saudi Arabia is a focal point for the world's one billion Muslims.

Flag: It is of green colour. Its length is two thirds of its width and it carries the creed of monotheism: There is no god but Allah; Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah. An unsheathed sword symbolizing justice follows below the inscription. The flag of the Kingdom is the only one in the world that can never be flown at halfmast because of the inscription "Tawhid".

Emblem: Two cross swords represent the emblem of the Kingdom with a palm tree at the top. The palm tree symbolizes prosperity and growth while the swords represent justice, power and safety.

Climate: Temperature varies from 7°C to 50°C. Rainfall: scanty and irregular. Long, hot

and dry summer. Temperature drops markedly at night.

Currency: The 'Riyal' Divided into 100 'halalahs' (one US dollar is equivalent to 3.75 SR).

Education: Free education facilities for all citizens up to highest level. No. of universities-7, colleges-105 (including 11 women's colleges) schools-23,000, students at all levels-45,00,000, number of students at higher education-371,500, number of students at technical & vocational institutions-46,000 (2004), teachers at all levels-195,000 (2004).

Health: Highest per capita health expenditure in the world. Free medical facilities for all citizens, including expatriates. Number of hospitals-313, beds-45,500, doctors-30,700, primary health centres-3130 (2004).

GDP: GDP grew by 13.7 percent (2003).
Per capita income: SR 35,000 (9,500 US dollar).

Industry: Over 3785 industrial units built at a cost of more than SR300 billion (2004). No. of workers-350,000.

Agriculture: Cultivable land-4.5 million hectares. Land under actual cultivation-2.9 million hectares. Pasture land-48 million hectares. Main Crops: Dates and wheat. Other crops-Cereals, fruits, potatoes and vegetables.

Electricity: Over 90 percent of the total areas have been covered under electrification program at the end of 6th Dev. Plan (1996-2000).

Minerals: Total crude oil reserves-260 billion barrels (25 percent of world reserve); total gas reserve-204 trillion cubic feet. Other minerals: Lead, Nickel, Zinc, Gold, Tin & Tungsten, Iron, Copper, Uranium, Phosphates, Bauxite, Potassium, Granite and Marbles.

Exports: Oil, Petro-chemicals, Fertilizers, Metals, Wheat, Cement, Building materials, Food Stuffs.

Imports: Electrical goods, Household appliances, Garments, Spices, Silk-products, Cutlery, Imitation jewellery.

Airports: 23 Airports, including three International Airports at Jeddah, Riyadh and Dhahran.

Radio Station: 17

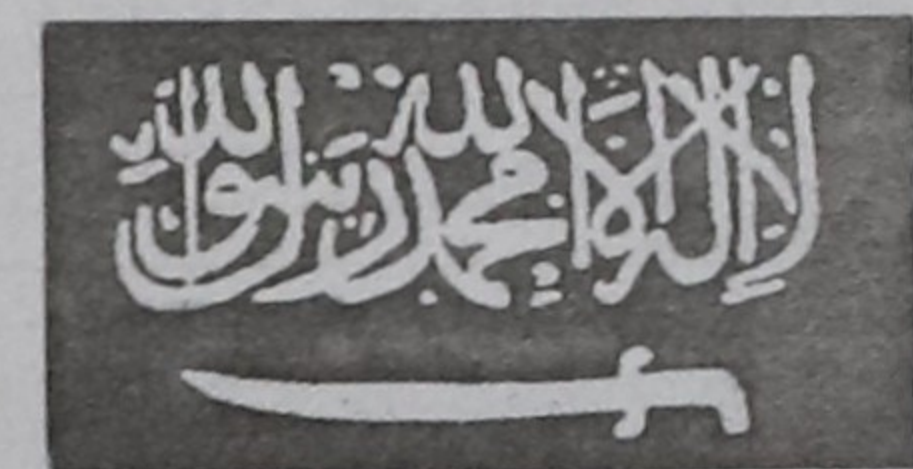
TV Transmission Centers: 90

Historical Sites: Ancient historical monuments and important archaeological sites are located mainly at Madinah, Al-Aula, Madinah Saleh and Najrah.

(Abridged)

Our Heartiest Felicitations to the Government and the Brotherly People of the Kingdom of SAUDI ARABIA on the Occasion of Their

National Day



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Our Heartiest Congratulations to the Government & the Brotherly People of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the Occasion of Their 78th

National Day



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