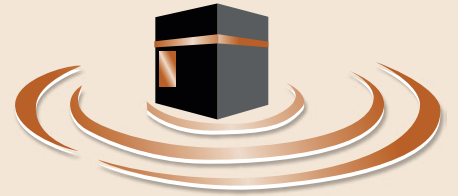


# Al-Ahella



Quarterly Magazine for Culture and Information published by Mutawiffy Hujaj South Asia Establishment

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**King Salman  
inaugurates five projects  
as part of third expansion  
of the Grand Mosque**

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**Saudi National Day- Celebrating 85 years of glory**

# وَأَذِّنْ فِي النَّاسِ بِالْحَجِّ يَا تَوْكُكُمْ جَلَّالاً

وَعَلَى كُلِّ فَسِيحٍ مِنَ كُلِّ فَيْحٍ غَيْرِ



تتشرف مؤسسة مطوفي حجاج دول جنوب آسيا  
بتقديم خالص التهاني وأصدق التبريكات  
إلى مقام خادم الحرمين الشريفين

**"الملك سلمان بن عبدالعزيز آل سعود" حفظه الله ورعاه**

والى صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير محمد بن نايف بن عبدالعزيز آل سعود  
ولي العهد نائب رئيس مجلس الوزراء وزير الداخلية رئيس لجنة الحج العليا

والى صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير محمد بن سلمان بن عبدالعزيز آل سعود  
ولي ولي العهد النائب الثاني لرئيس مجلس الوزراء وزير الدفاع

والى صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير خالد الفيصل بن عبدالعزيز آل سعود  
مستشار خادم الحرمين الشريفين أمير منطقة مكة المكرمة رئيس لجنة الحج المركزية

والى الأسرة المالكة الكريمة

والى معالي الدكتور بندر بن محمد حمزة حجار  
وزير الحج

والى الشعب السعودي الأبي النبيل  
والى الأمتين العربية والإسلامية

وذلك بمناسبة قدوم عيد الأضحى المبارك.. وكل عام ووطننا الغالي بألف خير

رئيس ونائب وأعضاء مجلس إدارة مؤسسة مطوفي حجاج دول جنوب آسيا

ورؤساء مكاتب الخدمة الميدانية ومطوفو ومطوفات المؤسسة وكافة منسوبيها.



مؤسسة مطوفي حجاج جنوب آسيا

Muttawiffy Hujjaj South Asia Est.

## Celebrating two occasions on one day

**T**he Kingdom of Saudi Arabia celebrates its 85th (according to the Hijra calendar) anniversary of the foundation of the Saudi state by King Abdul Aziz Al-Saud in 1932. On this memorable day, we also celebrate Eid Al-Adha for the year 1436 Hijra.

It is an honor to be able to celebrate both the events on the same day. This is a day of glory and pride for the people of Saudi Arabia and the Arab world. Under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, Saudi Arabia is thriving in various sectors, including education, health and infrastructure. King Salman continues to follow the pathway of our Founder, King Abdul Aziz Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Saud (Allah rest his soul), with the aim to hold on to the strong path on which Saudi Arabia has walked on, serving Muslims and Islam across the world.

His Excellency Dr. Bandar Bin Mohammed Hamzah Hajjar, Minister of Hajj, visited the Moutwafi Hujjaj Establishment for pilgrims from South Asian countries, where he was apprised in detail on the operational plans for the Hajj season this year. Several discussions took place on the progress to date, individuals hired and the procurement of material required. The minister

inaugurated vital projects including the addition of five new cars in the Public Affairs sector, to transport the sick and deceased pilgrims.

At the end of his visit, His Excellency commended the efforts of the Establishment in serving the pilgrims. He also welcomed the high-level plans offered to pilgrims during the Hajj season in terms of organization and the quality of services rendered to pilgrims.

The Establishment organized a remarkable ceremony to honor its outstanding employees for the work completed during the last pilgrimage season in 1435 Hijri. The ceremony recognized their achievements in the field service and encouraged them to continue providing still better services to our valued pilgrims

We look forward to come up again with another year of excellence and in providing exceptional services to pilgrims during this Hajj season 1436. We pray that this will be another good Hajj season for pilgrims to perform the Haj rituals with ease, comfort and pleasure.

Lastly, we would like to congratulate our leader, the Saudi noble community, and the Islamic nation as a whole on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha, Happy Adha!



**Dr. Ra'fat Ismail Badr**

Chairman of The Board of Directors  
South Asia Pilgrims  
Mutawiff Establishment



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## King Salman inaugurates five projects as part of third expansion of the Grand Mosque **Expansion includes main building, pedestrian tunnels, the Grand Mosque's central services station and the first ring road**

**C**ustodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz inaugurated five projects in Al-Safa Palace. This is part of the third Saudi expansion of the Grand Mosque in Makkah, which includes expansion of main building, eastern squares, tunnels, service roads and the first ring road. Following the inauguration, King Salman was shown the model of the Grand Mosque's entire expansion project. He was also shown photographs of the expansion project's different facets with a detailed explanation.

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Makkah "Al-Ahella"

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The ceremony began with the recitation of verses from the Qur'an.

In his speech Dr. Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al-Sudais, Head of the Presidency of the Two Holy Mosques expressed his deepest gratitude and appreciation to King Salman for his utmost care and support for the expansion projects.

### **An honorable duty**

He described the expansion as an honorable Islamic duty which history can never ignore. "One of God's greatest and most glorified blessings was to select Makkah as the place of revelation and the Qibla of the Muslims. From Makkah the lights of monotheism and Sunnah lit every corner of the world. Makkah was also blessed

with noble and honorable governors, since it was founded by King Abdul Aziz Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Saud," he said.

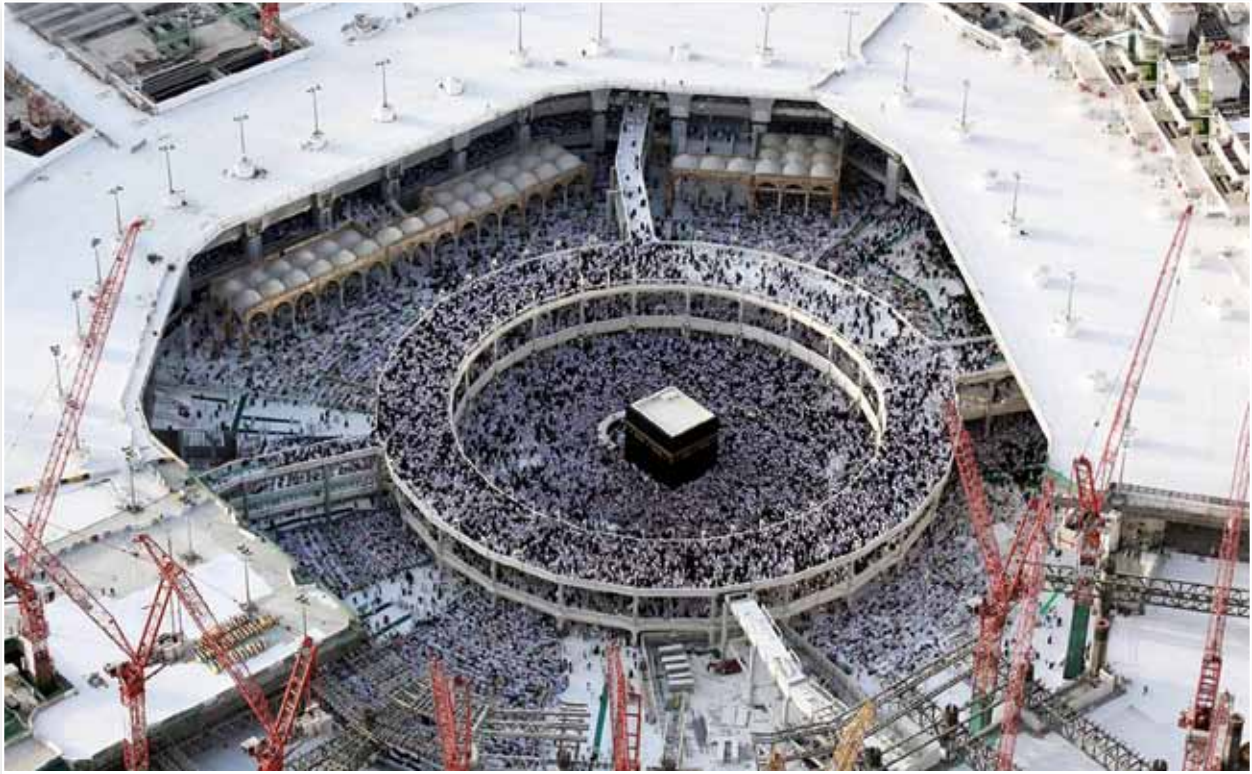
Dr. Sudais said: "Righteous Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, you have honored the Islamic nation in the East and the West with your wise decisions and notable projects, including the expansion of the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque. You have intensified its glory and devoted your time to this blessed opening. We hope that this expansion and integrated service for the Grand Mosque will be a good tiding for you and Muslims all over the world."

He added: "This historic expansion covers 1,470,000 square meters and the Grand Mosque

will accommodate more than 1,850,000 worshippers. The new development includes automatic gates that are controlled by 78 remote controlled rooms on the ground floor surrounding the main building; a state-of-the-art sound system with 4,524 head-phones; 6,635 surveillance cameras; a fire alarm, and hygiene systems that include a central dust suction system."

### **An Integrated system**

Dr. Sudais explained that the building includes an integrated Zamzam chilled water system, and 2,528 oriels providing excellent services to worshippers at different levels. This structure supports the increasing number of pilgrims and visitors and frees congestion.



He stressed that these historic accomplishments will have a positive impact on the leadership and the cultural role of Saudi Arabia in conveying the Islamic messages of spreading security, moderation, peace, love, tolerance, dialogue, convenience and harmony.

His Excellency explained that the building includes Zamzam water within an integrated Zamzam chilled water system, and 2,528 oriels providing excellent services for prayers at different levels. This structure supports the increasing number of pilgrims and visitors without the hassle of congestion.

Dr. Sudais stressed that these historic accomplishments will have a positive impact on highlighting the role of Saudi leader-

ship and the cultural role of this blessed country. These accomplishments will also spread the message of peace, moderation, love, tolerance, dialogue, and harmony.

### Largest expansion

Dr. Ibrahim Bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Assaf, Minister of Finance, congratulated the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and all Muslims on this historic occasion. "This is the largest expansion of the Grand Mosque. The inauguration highlights the opening of the third Saudi expansion, which King Abdul Aziz, founder of the Kingdom began and was completed by King Saud Al-Faisal."

He added: "The expansion of the eastern squares was executed in the reign of King Khaled.

The expansion of the mosque from the western side was executed in the reign of King Fahd, and the expansion was executed in the reign of King Abdullah. The major expansion was under the direction of King Abdullah, and was completed in the era of King Salman."

Dr. Al-Assaf clarified that the comprehensive project, the third major expansion of the Grand Mosque includes the development of the Mosque's main building; the external squares; bridges' terraces and building of central services; service tunnel; security buildings; the hospital; pedestrian tunnels; transit stations; bridges leading to the mosque; first ring road surrounding the Grand Mosque ; infrastructure including power plants;



*Al-Sudais*



*Al-Assaf*

water tanks, and storm water drainage.

### Five projects

He said that the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques will inaugurate five main projects, namely: the main building expansion project; the external squares project; the pedestrian tunnels project; the Central Station service project, and the first ring road project.

Dr. Al-Assaf explained: “We would meet annually on the same day to inaugurate the rest of the projects including, the fully equipped expansion buildings and facilities, the terracing and security buildings and the hospital. This will accommodate the increasing number of pilgrims entering the sacred Mosque, and will see the worshippers increase to 1,850,000. These statistics highlight the magnitude of our achievement, which ultimately realizes the comfort of our visitors. The main expansion building project consists of six praying floors, 680 electric escalators, 24 elevators for the disabled and 21 000 bathrooms.”

### The best standards applied

The Minister of Finance highlighted that the expansion was carefully designed and built with high quality, in accordance to the highest international standards. The finest construction materials, including concrete and iron were used. The development also encompasses the best and latest mechanical and electronic services and systems.

Concluding his speech, Dr. Al-Assaf asked Allah for mercy and forgiveness for late King Abdullah who was responsible for the expansion of the Grand Mosque. It was under his direction that the project commenced, which was then supervised by King Salman.

### The inauguration

Following the speeches, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques clicked the button to open the newly renovated Grand Mosque. The Grand Mosques main gate consists of three remote controlled doors, each of which has two sides weighing approximately 18 tons.

The new expanded development consists of three floors and is spread over 320,000 square

meters. This additional space will accommodate 300,000 worshippers, seeing an additional space of 175,000 square meters that will host 330,000 worshippers.

The King also inaugurated five pedestrian tunnels to help pedestrian pilgrims to commute from the Grand Mosque to the pilgrimage area. Out of the five tunnels developed, four would be used to transport pilgrims while the fifth tunnel would be used as an emergency and security route.

The tunnels cover 5,300 meters in length. In addition, the central service complex comprises of power plants, back-up generators, water cooling, waste collection and a tank and water pump for fire emergencies. The first ring road located within the central region extends across 4,600 meters and includes bridges and tunnels to move traffic from the central region to the outer region with three lanes in each direction.

Following the inauguration, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the audience watched a film on the expansion projects.



# Saudi National Day- Celebrating 85 years of glory

**T**he Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was founded by King Abdul Aziz Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Saud on Jumad Al-Awwal 19, 1135.

Effort to regain the city of Riyadh, the capital of his forefathers was initiated three decades ago on Shawwal 05, 1319 (15.01.1902).

A royal decree was issued in 1351 AH (1932) to unify all areas of Saudi Arabia.

September 23 is a “Historic National Day” for the country. This day the Kingdom celebrates in memory of its late great founder King Abdul Aziz. The day highlights the impressive love, loyalty and leadership. Saudi nationals rejoice with great fervor and remember the courage and wisdom of its founder.

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“Al-Ahella” magazine

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Recapture of Riyadh by King Abdul Aziz was a turning point in the history of the region. Riyadh witnessed the achievements of civilized endeavors that led to the rise of a modern Saudi state that united most parts of the Arabian Peninsula. He was blessed with outstanding leadership qualities, which enabled him to establish a modern state. He was known for his commitment for his people and the land. His dedication for good outcomes, knowledge sharing, chivalry and

generosity was evident in all his endeavors.

King Abdul Aziz was able to unite regions, tribes and people. He promoted and maintained security and stability in the country. One of his most notable qualities was his faith in Allah and his own people.

He had a strong personality and was known for his leadership and excellent wisdom. He would remain patient even in most difficult times and had a sterling quality to convert adversaries into friends.

King Abdul Aziz continued his struggle for more than thirty

years to unite the country and succeeded in unifying many areas, the most important of which were:

- South of Najd, Sadir and Al-Washem 1320 AH
- Al Qassim 1322 AH
- Al-Ahsa 1331 AH
- Asir 1338 AH
- Hail 1340 AH

He also succeeded in taking over the Hijaz region in 1343-44 AD (1925 AD). In 1349 AH (1930 AD) the unification of the Jazan region was completed. When the Kingdom was founded, King Abdul Aziz was called, "King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" in 1351 AH (1932 AD).

### **Construction and development**

The new state under King Abdul Aziz moved forward on a development march and focused on religious, administrative, military, economic, social and cultural aspects.

He established many administrative institutions, like administrative councils, the regional council, the Shoura Council, the provincial administration and the judiciary presidency, religious courts, the ministries of foreign affairs, finance, defense, transport, health and interior as well as the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) and other ministries and various administrations. Council of ministers was part of his administrative and organizational achievements.



*King Saud*



*King Faisal*

One of the primary goals for King Abdul Aziz was to provide best of the services to the pilgrims. He ordered the expansion of the Two Holy Mosques, the establishment of the Directorate General of pilgrimage and the construction of hospitals, highways and multiple transportation means.

### **Outstanding achievements**

Amongst the most prominent achievements of King Abdul Aziz, was the policy of abandonment, which resulted in the formation of many stable regions across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The stability was mainly for a number of tribes, whose members turned to agriculture, trade and farming of the land till they became successfully developed cities.

The resettlement project was one of the most prominent one which related to the region's social development, and achieved

significant results in the life of the Bedouin community and the growing urban population.

King Abdul Aziz highlighted the importance of community participation in unifying the country and reiterating the beliefs of monotheism.

Another notable achievement was the unity among the people.

Education was his priority. His attention to education; knowledge sharing; establishment of schools; devising curriculum, courses and printing and making text books available to students free of charge, and establishment of libraries and availability of books are worth noting.

In 1926, he authorized the General Education Directorate to open schools and provide them with teachers and school supplies. That same year, the Saudi Science Institute was created. The founder king's personal library is still well-preserved in his home in Riyadh.



*King Khaled*

### Other contributions

King Abdul Aziz immensely contributed to strengthen Saudi Arabia's status on political and economic levels. Despite the difficult circumstances gripping the region then, he managed to adopt a clear foreign policy.

Saudi Arabia's stated policy is focused on co-operation. The approach was based on the establishment of a strong state that supports advocacy to achieve the best interest of the Arab Islamic state. He supported the Arab countries in their struggle against foreign imperialism and influence, and he unreservedly supported the Palestinian cause and always favored the enforcement of justice for peace to prevail in the world.

Those who are familiar with King Abdul Aziz's foreign policy understood that the Arabs and Muslim political issues were of particular interest to the Kingdom's founder. These issues took priority over his own inter-



*King Fahad*

est, reflecting his leadership position and commitment towards the Palestinian issue, which has been and continues to be a major focus in Saudi foreign policy.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was also among of the first countries to participate in the establishment of the Arab League in 1944 and favored the independence of many Arab and Islamic states.

During the reign of King Abdul Aziz, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia earned an international status by welcoming a number of global organizations and conventions to the country. Saudi Arabia was among the first countries that signed in 1364AH (1945) the United Nations' Convention in San Francisco out of its desire to boost international understanding, co-operation and stability in the world.

It also contributed immensely to the establishment of the Arab League in 1944



*King Abdullah*

### Security & oil

The discovery of oil in 1938 was an economic boom for the country. King Abdul Aziz invested the oil resources in the development of industry; mineral extraction, and increased international trade relations. Several projects such as the construction of the railway that connects Riyadh with the eastern province, establishment of a national aviation company (1945), broadcasting services etc. were initiated.

The security establishment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the most important achievements under King Abdul Aziz's reign.

The roads, towns, villages are safe and communities live in peace. He applied Islamic law in the country and discouraged all activity that could affect the stability of the land and cause harm to the property of its people.

After the death of King Abdul Aziz on Rabie Al-Thani 02 (No-

vember 09, 1953), his sons continued the march based on the Islamic principles.

### **Abdul Aziz's successors**

After King Abdul-Aziz, Saudi Arabia was ruled by his sons which is listed below:

- King Saud Bin Abdul Aziz 1373 - 1384 AH (1953-1964)
- King Faisal Bin Abdul Aziz, 1384 - 1395 AH (1964-1975).
- King Khaled Bin Abdul Aziz 1395 -1402 AH (1975-1982).
- Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, 1402 - 1426 AH (1982-2005).
- Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz 1426 -1436 AH (2005-2015)

#### **• King Salman**

• On Rabie Al-Thani 03, 1436 AH (January 23, 2015), Crown Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz was proclaimed King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Since his ascending to the throne, King Salman made a lot of progress in the country.

• Perhaps the most prominent of these accomplishments, was his declaration that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not accept any threat of any kind near its border. He committed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will stand by its Yemeni brothers in the fight against Huthi coups. He endorsed the start of "*Asifat Al-Hazem*" that lasted for about four weeks, restoring hope to



*Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman*

the people of Yemen.

• The meeting between the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Gulf leaders took place in Auja Palace on March 21, 2015. The meeting resulted in the launch of "*Asifat Al-Hazem*", in which 10 countries participated to curb Huthi gangs to restore legitimacy to Yemen, as well as to resist Iranian expansion in the south of

the Arabian Peninsula.

• Military analysts from around the world highlighted this campaign as an important step for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. King Salman confirmed that despite the Kingdom being a peaceful and friendly country; it will enter into any war to defend its territories, its border security and its people.



- The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques also ordered the allocation of \$274 million for Yemen's humanitarian relief, through the United Nations, to coincide with the launch of the "Restore Hope" operation.

- Resolutions and two councils
- The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman is-

sued several royal decrees to re-shape the Council of Ministers. Amongst these decisions, 12 commissions were cancelled; a specialized council, the National Security Council, and two specialized councils in atomic and renewable energy were also established. Moreover SR110 billions were allocated to develop

and support facilities, services and various activities.

- Two of the councils established were linked to the Council of Ministers. The first one established is the Council of Political and Security Affairs, chaired by Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Naif, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. The second one is the Council of Economic Affairs and Development, headed by Deputy Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman, Minister of Defense.

- The ministry of higher education is merged into the Ministry of Education. The interaction of King Salman resulted in the issuance of royal decrees. The message was delivered to officials stating that the King is keeping an eye on all activity, and records all achievements. The most prominent decisions include:

- Adjustment to the monthly pension ladder warranty
- The spending of SR20 billion for the implementation of electricity and water services
- The release of prisoners in accordance with the rules laid down by the Ministry of Interior in its order No. 46 638, dated 07/04/1436 AH

In addition, a royal decree was issued which said all necessary steps will be taken to rectify any mishaps of residents in the Kingdom. For instance, Yemeni residents (born prior to 20/06/1436 AH) were provided a six months visa subject to extension, etc.



## Prince Khaled welcomes national Hajj campaign

**P** rince Khalid Al-Faisal, Emir of Makkah who is also Adviser to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud and Chairman of the Central Hajj Committee officially welcomed the annual national Hajj campaign titled “Hajj is an act of worship and civilized behavior” on Dhul Qada 8,1436.

Makkah – *Al-Ahella*

In his speech, he commented: “Our services to the pilgrims is very well recognized and we are proud to serve the pilgrims in a very organized manner. Under the directives of King Salman, those serving the pilgrims with immense sincerity have demonstrated leadership qualities.”

“It is the responsibility of all citizens and officials to serve and take care of the pilgrims and help them perform Hajj rit-

uals in comfort and peace,” he pointed out.

### Respect laws

Prince Khaled said: “The government of the Custodian of the Two Mosques has been using all its resources in protecting and serving the pilgrims during their stay in the holy cities of Makkah and Madina. At the same time, it also emphasizes the need to respect all rules and regulations. Residents of Jeddah will need to take this



seriously and will need to cooperate with official agencies to ensure pilgrims' safety at all times. All violations noticed will be reported to the regulatory bodies."

He also affirmed that special care will be taken to serve the pilgrims so that this Hajj season becomes a memorable one, despite the fact that the number of pilgrims has doubled but the government is keen to serve them.

Concluding his speech, Prince Khaled reminded citizens of importance of respecting Hajj regulations. "Those who do not respect our country's regulations, do not respect themselves and do not deserve to be respected," he said.

At the end of the ceremony Prince Khaled honored campaign's sponsors and supporters.

### Positive behaviors

Dr. Hisham Al-Faleh, Adviser to the Emir of Makkah and Chairman of the Executive and Preparatory Committee of Hajj, meanwhile, stated that

the campaign aims to promote positive, courteous, responsive and credible behaviors among pilgrims and their service providers from the moment the pilgrims arrive till the time they leave the holy land.

The Hajj campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of the significant and influential period for government and private institutions that serve the pilgrims with both diligence and dedication. He stated that the campaign had positive results in previous years and conveys an important message that stresses on the need to respect the place and abide by the regulations. From the basis of this message, the campaign's identity was shaped, refined and implemented annually.

Dr. Al-Faleh added: "Previously the campaign focused on expanding its message in different languages through media. The campaign was primarily focused on addressing the spiritual, behavioral and regulatory aspects of all target groups, including national and foreign

pilgrims as well as private and public sectors which provide pilgrims with services"

### Important anchor

Dr. Al-Faleh highlighted that the campaign has developed into an important anchor in view of the expansion projects taking place in the Holy Mosque, as well as other projects related to the development of the holy sites.

He explained that this campaign was developed as an effort to manage and guide large crowds in their journey through the holy sites and the Holy Mosque.

Dr. Al-Faleh also highlighted the sweeping achievements over the past years, which were the direct results of the campaign. This included a significant reduction in the number of violators at the holy sites, as well as an increase in the dedicated efforts of officials in improving the health and hygiene standards during the Hajj season.

## Dr. Bandar hails South Asia Establishment's operational plan

**H**is Excellency Dr. Bandar Bin Mohammed Hajjar, Minister of Hajj, expressed his satisfaction for the overall operational plan organised by the Muttawiffy Hujjaj South Asia Establishment for the Hajj season this year.

By Ahmad Al-Ahmadi - Makkah

"We are so pleased of the progress made to date and are confident that we are moving in the right direction. We wish Allah Almighty bestows success to all our employees giving them the strength and willpower to accomplish these plans and programs. All efforts made by the employees of the Establishment will contribute to achieving the aspirations of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz," the minister said in a press statement during his visit to the Establishment's headquarters on Dhul Qada 11, 1436 AH.

The minister was welcomed the Establishment's headquarters in the Rusaifa neighborhood by Dr. Ra'fat Ismail Badr, Chairman of The Board of Directors South Asia Pilgrims Mutawiffs Establishment, his deputy Engineer Omar Zaki Hariri and members of the Board of Directors. Upon his arrival, the Minister toured the different departments within the Establishment and was provided with an overview of the progress to date within these departments and divisions.

He then watched a visual presentation of the Establishment's achievements to date.



### The visual presentation

King Salman directed the concerned agencies to ensure that the pilgrims and visitors to the Prophet's Mosque are able to perform their religious rites and other rituals in peace and comfort.

The directives provided by King Salman; Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Naif, who is also Chairman of the Supreme Hajj Committee; Prince Khaled Al-Faisal, Emir of Makkah and Adviser to the King, who is also Chairman of the Central Hajj Committee, and Dr. Bandar all led to a successful Hajj season. The Establishment geared up early for the Hajj season and the Board of Directors held regular meetings to discuss and debate the pros and cons of the plans organized for the last season. They concentrated on avoiding any negative facets, and in developing and modernizing positive ones. The Establishment provided updates for the next season, which included the development of services offered to the pilgrims by field service officers,

who are responsible for overseeing the services provided to the pilgrims. Some of the factors highlighted during the presentation included:

### Meeting the pilgrims

Once the pilgrims arrive, the Establishment will host them in one of the holy sites or in Makkah. They will interact with the pilgrims to ensure the highest level of satisfaction and take a particular interest in understanding the pilgrims' requirements.

The Establishment is committed to improving the level of services provided to pilgrims.

### Distinctive vision

The organization led by its chairman, Dr. Ra'fat Ismail Badr, the board members and community all work together to provide a distinctive vision as well as raise the level of services provided to the pilgrims.

### Training courses

The Establishment dedicates time and resources to train its young employees to help develop their talents.



Young employees enroll in intensive training sessions to achieve the King's desired aspirations in providing commendable services in different fields.

In addition, the Establishment's employees are trained in several computer programs.

The educational courses are part of the overall framework aimed at increasing the spirit of fair competition amongst each other, as well as to enrich the discussions held by field services officers.

### Central Tawafa

The Establishment's efforts were also presented in the field of central Tawafa. They received the required Tawafa licenses from the General Presidency of the Two Holy Mosques, after taking an assessment, which tests their level of proficiency in prayers and their knowledge of different rituals of Hajj and Umrah.

The participants in the Tawaf are enrolled in workshops, training courses and intensive lectures delivered by specialists, the Establishment and other notable authorities in forensic science.

### Lectures & seminars

The presentation highlighted the Establishment's cooperation with the civil and military delegates to organize seminars and lectures, aimed at educating its employees on the authorities responsibilities as well as the issue of common interest.

The Establishment also organizes meetings for the security officers responsible for the pilgrimage security and the traffic police working either in Makkah or at any of the holy sites. During the meetings, the par-



ticipants discuss the Hajj programs; security plans, and traffic flow in Makkah and other holy sites.

### Greeting pilgrims

The presentation also recorded the Establishment's efforts and preparations to welcome the first group of pilgrims at the entry points. The welcoming team, headed by the Dr. Ra'fat and a number of Board members welcomed the pilgrims.

### Inspection services

The presentation also highlighted the equal distribution of field service officers in all districts of Makkah. They are equipped with all the necessary supplies to be able to instantly reach the pilgrims.

Specialists' from these offices visit pilgrims' accommodation daily to inspect services provided and to ensure that all requirements are met. All shortcomings or issues that arise are immediately taken care of in order to ensure the utmost comfort and best service to the pilgrims.

The Establishment continues to provide its services to pilgrims during their stay in Makkah and other holy sites under the supervision of the chairman, his deputy, Board members and members of commit-

tees, Chairmen of the field service offices and their deputies.

### Food control

The Establishment hired a specialized national company to monitor the provision of food for the pilgrims in the holy sites and to ensure that all hot meals prepared are as per the health and safety standards of the country.

### Religious awareness

The Establishment organized a team of religious educators to deliver religious lectures to the pilgrims. This is translated into all languages and is intended to answer any questions and enquires related to the performance of the Hajj.

### Reverts to Islam

Among the pilgrims who register during Hajj, are new converters to Islam. The Establishment is more than happy to receive the new pilgrims who are greeted by the Establishment's employees with a warm welcome.

The Establishment's public relations and media department played an active role in ensuring extensive media coverage of the Establishment's achievement. Key television,

radio, newspapers and digital platforms covered the achievements of the Establishment.

### The ministers statement

At the end of the visit, the minister of hajj delivered the following statement:

“This visit comes as part of the overall operational plan to inspect the preparation of the institutions which serve the pilgrims.

The Muttawiffy Hujjaj South Asia Establishment that we visited today serves approximately 416,000 pilgrims from 11 South Asian countries.

Today, we were briefed on the Establishment’s operational plan for this year’s Hajj season. We have reviewed with satisfaction the programs and mechanisms for implementing the plan. We hope that Allah Almighty will empower those working in this Establishment in carrying out the designed operational plans and programs and achieve the aspirations of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

During the committee meetings, we addressed the importance of welcoming the pilgrims.

We also focused on the importance of providing a service that adheres to international standards. Moreover, we highlighted the significance of visiting sick people in hospitals, giving them the courage to recover and standing by them during their recovery.

The Establishment was encouraged to make use of modern technology at all proceedings and was requested to remind pilgrims to comply with the rules and regulations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.”



### Ministry building in Makkah

When questioned about the estimated date of completion for the ministry’s building project in Makkah, the minister said: “The building work is almost complete, and is pending updates on the development of modern technology. We expect that the entire building will be completed within the next two months, to allow the ministry and its subsidiary to move in.”

### Ra’fat welcomes minister

Dr. Ra’fat expressed his pleasure over the visit of Dr. Hajjar and said that the minister’s visit to the institution and time he spent in hosting a meeting has benefited a number of people.

The tribute paid by His Excellency had a significant impact, encouraging us to put in more efforts to improve the quality of services provided by the Establishment to the pilgrims.”

Dr. Ra’fat expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Hajjar for his visit, which played an instrumental role in the progress to date.

HE Dr. Hajjar was accompanied by Dr. Hussein Nasser Al-Sharif, Deputy Minister for Hajj; Dr. Muhammad Talal Semsom, Under Secretary for Planning and Development Affairs;

Abdul Rahman Alnufaie, Assistant Undersecretary for pilgrims affairs and General Manager of the Ministry in Makkah; Sulaiman Shabaneh, Counselor of the minister’s office, and Ali Al-Ghamdi, Adviser and Supervisor of the Department of Public Relations and Media.

### Meals

When asked about the number of meals provided to pilgrims in Mashaer, Arafat and Mina during the last two seasons, Dr. Ra’fat said that during the Hajj season 1434 AH, the total number of meals reached more than 800,000 while in 1435 AH it reached 1,000,320.

### Footage from the visit

- Dr. Bandar Hajjar inaugurates a mural drawing at the entrance of the Establishment’s building, where Dr. Yahya Mahboub, member of the Public Relations sector and its board members provided an overview of it
- The minister inspects the hall of pioneers, including the departments’ directors and former heads of committees’ representations
- Dr. Hajjar examines the Tawaf’s exhibition
- Souvenir pictures were taken with the chairman, his deputy and members of the Board of Directors