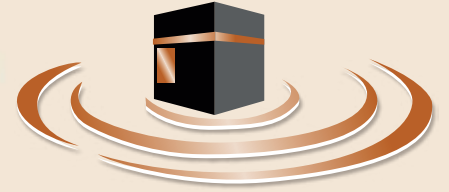


Al-Ahella



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Vol. 11 - Issue 30 - Ramadan 1437H



Temporary Mataf Bridge removed, new one ready

SCTNH launches "After - Umrah Tour" program

Council of Ministers approves "Vision 2030"



بمناسبة إقرار مجلس الوزراء الموقر «رؤية المملكة ٢٠٣٠»
تتشرف مؤسسة مطوفي حجاج دول جنوب آسيا
بتقديم خالص التهاني
إلى مقام خادم الحرمين الشريفين
الملك سلمان بن عبدالعزيز آل سعود - حفظه الله ورعاه -
وإلى صاحب السمو الملكي
الأمير محمد بن نايف بن عبدالعزيز
ولي العهد نائب رئيس مجلس الوزراء وزير الداخلية
وإلى صاحب السمو الملكي
الأمير محمد بن سلمان بن عبدالعزيز
ولي ولي العهد النائب الثاني لرئيس مجلس الوزراء وزير الدفاع

رئيس ونائباً وأعضاء مجلس إدارة مؤسسة مطوفي حجاج دول جنوب آسيا
ورؤساء مكاتب الخدمة الميدانية ومطوفو ومطوفات المؤسسة وكافة منسوبيها



King Salman's moves to spur growth

Since The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz ascended to the throne, the Kingdom has been witnessing both remarkable and admirable social, economic, and ideological activities. These activities known as “Vision 2030 – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia” are deliberated and organized steps that aim to advance the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to higher levels in a changing world. There is place for people with enlightened minds and hearts who believe in growth and progress.

The vision of King Salman saw light of the day with the issuance of Royal Decrees on May 07, 2016 with the approval of the Council of Ministers. Some ministers were replaced, some ministries, authorities, associations, and general committees were restructured with a view to spur growth and prosperity for the Kingdom and citizens.

“Vision 2030” is based on a decision of the Council of Economic Affairs and Development on Rajab 12, 1437H (April 19, 2016).

In his speech on the occasion, King Salman appropriately said: “We had directed the Council of Economic Affairs and Development to develop The Vision of the Kingdom so that our country can be a model in the world at all levels. We stud-

ied the Vision that the Council of Economic Affairs and Development presented and the Council of Ministers approved it. We are grateful to the Council and its efforts in this matter, and we hope our citizens to work together to make this ambitious vision a success.”

In the same context, South Asia Pilgrims Mutawwifs Establishment congratulates His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Salih Bin Taher Benteen on his appointment as Minister of Hajj and Umrah. This is an evidence of the Royal trust in him to carry forward the achievements that were accomplished during the last years in serving Hajj and Umrah with the support of the wise leadership and the honest efforts of the workers in that regard.

My thanks to former Minister of Hajj Dr. Bandar Bin Muhammad Hamza Hajjar for his exemplary role in advancing the services of the pilgrims to reach this astounding level.

Lastly, on the advent of the holy of month of Ramadan, I extend my heartiest congratulations to our wise leadership, the citizens of Saudi Arabia and the Arab and Islamic nations on behalf of my colleagues and members of the South Asia Pilgrims Mutawwifs Establishment and pray may Allah bless us with it again.



Dr. Ra'fat Ismail Badr

Chairman of The Board of Directors
South Asia Pilgrims
Mutawwifs Establishment



5

Council of Ministers approves
"Vision 2030"

10

Temporary Mataf Bridge removed,
new one ready



16

SCTNH launches "After-Umrah
Tour" program





Council of Ministers approves "Vision 2030"



The Council of Ministers approved “Vision 2030 - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia” in its session on April 25, 2016. King Salman bin Abdulaziz, Custodian of The Holy Mosques, chaired the meeting. The decision focused in particular on the plan proposed by the Council of Economic Affairs and Development on Rajab 12, 1437H (April 19, 2016) led by Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman who is also Minister of Defense. The Cabinet also approved the speech, NO(2719) on Rajab 18, 1437H (April 25, 2016) pertaining to Vision 2030 of Prince Mohammed.

Riyadh - “Al-Ahella”

In his speech King Salman confirmed that since he took reigns, he has been aiming towards comprehensive development based on legitimacy and benefiting from the power, loca-

tion and treasures of the state to achieve a better future for “our country and children while holding on to our Islamic principles and maintaining the traditions of our community.”

**I hope our sons
and daughters,
male and female
citizens, will
work together to
achieve this
ambitious vision
King Salman**

He added: “We had directed the Council of Economic Affairs and Development to develop The Vision of the Kingdom so that our country can be a model in the world at all levels.



We studied the Vision that the Council of Economic Affairs and Development presented and the Council of Ministers approved it. We are grateful to the Council and its efforts in this matter, and we hope our citizens to work together to make this ambitious vision a success.”

Prince Mohammed bin Salman confirmed that “Vision 2030” which he announced recently represents the goals of the Kingdom regarding development and economy for the next 15 years.

In an interview on April 25, 2016 with “Al-Arabia” Channel

Our strong points are our Arab and Islamic roots, investment power, and geographic location.

he revealed that the vision was going to materialize irrespective of the fluctuating oil prices. He also said that the vision does not need high oil prices and it can succeed even with the lowest prices. “I think that if oil stopped in 2020, we can live. We need it.

We need it, but I think in 2020, we can live without oil.”

Prince Mohammed spoke about Aramco, which he sees as an important part of Vision 2030, saying that the first advantage of this is transparency because people are not happy due to the absence of information. He added that Aramco will become a holding company and its partial IPO will be biggest in history. Launching a part of Aramco in the market will make it transparent and under the supervision of banks and everyone else.

He said that Saudi Arabia



has three strengths. And no one competes with us. “Our strong points are our Arab and Islamic roots; investment power, and geographic location. King Salman Bridge will be the most important land crossing in the world. It will link Europe and Asia, will provide big investment and development opportunities. It will help move billions’ worth of cargo across Red Sea.”

The Deputy Crown Prince considered 2015 to be a year of rapid reformation, and felt 2016 will be of swift, organized, and

2015 was a year of rapid reformation, and 2016 will be of swift, organized, and planned reformation.

Prince Mohammed bin Salman

planned reformation. He also added that King Salman strives to shake the head of the pyramid in the executive power.

Prince Mohammed also said the Ministry of Finance will be restructured and that it is preparing the budget during two years. He also said that all infrastructure projects are still standing and nothing will stop from their implementation, adding that “our ambitious plan will deal with housing, employment, and other issues”. He also added that restructuring the housing sector will contribute in raising the percentage of Saudis owning houses. He revealed that support will be for those with



middle and lower incomes, that the rich who will oppose redefining support will not benefit, and that the vision of energy and water support will be applied on even the princes and ministers.

In a question about clear plans in “Vision 2030”, the Deputy Crown Prince said: “We will review the Five-Year Plan, according to the vision. There is nothing technical in the vision and no executive programs, it is a vision for 15 years and we will have to work to accomplish it. The programs will cover many

aspects on how to restructure the General Investment Authority, Aramco, National Transformation, International Strategic partnership program, and others. Most of these programs are part of the five-year plans, we will accomplish the first stage in next five years, then we will start other programs for the five years after that.”

Prince Mohammed was also asked on coping with the increasing number of pilgrims. In the last decade, the number of Umrah visitors from abroad

reached eight million pilgrims which is expected to touch 15 million in 2020 and 30 million in 2030. He replied saying that “we believe that a part of the infrastructure is present. Jeddah’s new airport will serve this vision greatly. Taif airport will also serve the vision and will tackle big numbers. Makkah’s infrastructure is very strong and Haramain Train is an essential aspect to support these numbers. Now, we are trying to finish Makkah Metro as soon as possible.



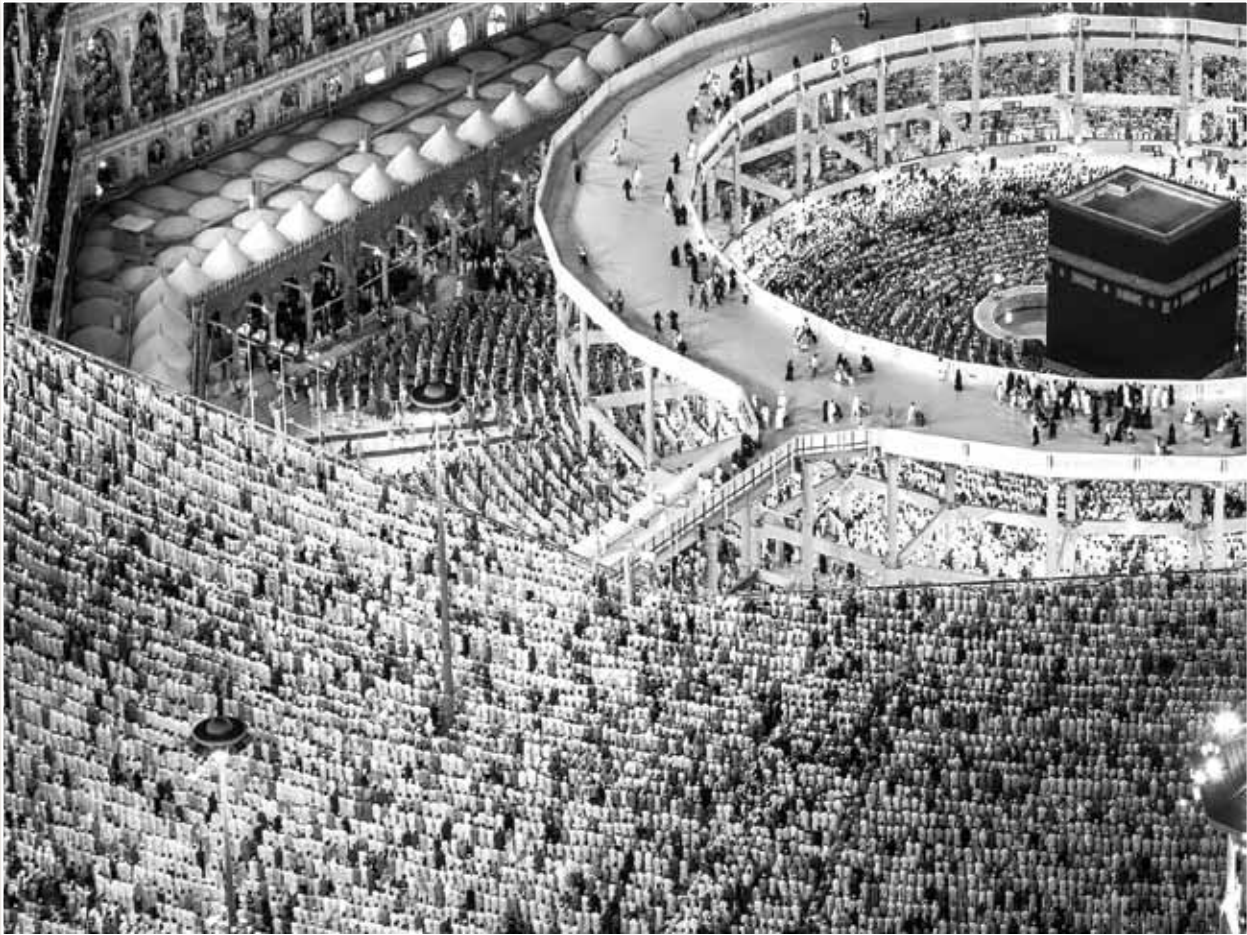
Temporary Mataf Bridge removed, new one ready 8 Umbrellas to protect the worshippers from summer heat in the Holy Haram

Three years after its construction, authorities completed removing the temporary Mataf Bridge in the Holy Mosque on Shaban 06, 1437 (May 13, 2016), in order for the new Mataf to be used with its full capacity.

On the night of 27.07.1437 (May 04, 2016), Mataf area witnessed the completion of the removal of the southern bridge which was connected to the temporary Mataf Bridge and the rest was removed.

Dr. Wael Al-Halabi, a member of the technical committee for the projects of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, said that the committee pays immense attention to the safety of the work because it is a cardinal area in the Holy Mosque and it is always crowded. He also pointed out that the removal was speedy and

Makkah – Al-Ahella



completed within 35 days, according to schedule.

The temporary Mataf Bridge lasted three years and that was constructed temporarily as expansion of the ground Mataf was going on. The expansion passed three stages and each stage took a whole Hijri year. The General Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques prepared three main constant alternatives for the temporary Mataf. The Presidency devoted a number of floors and each one of them was assigned for a certain group of pilgrims.

The Presidency assigned a floor for manual wheelchairs and another floor with scales for electronic wheelchairs. A 20-metre wide area remained devoted for pilgrims on foot on the first and second floors.

The Presidency has started to construct umbrellas that cover the northern areas of the Holy Haram to provide comfort to the worshippers and visitors as the holy capital experiences high temperatures in the summer, and praying in open areas around the Haram becomes difficult.

The Presidency has started to assemble the bases of huge umbrellas in the northern areas of the Holy Mosque and they are considered the largest in the world. Specialized German architects supervised the project that started five years ago.

Eight huge umbrellas would be assembled, each with a height of 45 meters. Each umbrella includes a clock, guiding signs, and internal ventilation.

It is mentioned that the most prominent quality in building the temporary Mataf was the use of



Carbon Nanotube technology. Carbon Nanotube technology is the most precise measurement unit where one millimeter contains a million Nano. Nano science works with one Nano to 100 Nano only, if more or less it becomes a different kind of measurement.

Mr. Sultan Al-Qorashi, Head of Project Management in the General Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques, explained that the removal of the temporary Mafat Bridge was done because most of the project is complete to increase the capacity of the

Mafat to reach 107,000 pilgrims an hour. Also, it was because of the benefits of the assigned Mafat pathways starting from Mafat area, first and ground floors, and the two scale floors. Last reason

was for the importance of completing the building of the old hallway in the postponed areas because of the linking bridges between Mafat building and the two rings of Mafat bridge.



SCTNH launches “After-Umrah Tour” program Ministries of Interior, External Affairs, and Hajj coordinate

P rince Sultan bin Salman, President of Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTNH) said that King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud is leading great economic and political movements, and he is supervising important and positive transformations that the Kingdom is currently going through or it will see in the near future.

Riyadh – *Al-Ahella*

Launching “After-Umrah Tour” program on April 24, 2016, he pointed out that the Commission is preparing the base this Holy land stood upon and it will be implemented with the visions of the scholars and sheikhs in all tourism programs in maintaining and preserving national

heritage. It also works openly and comprehensively with the citizens, all governmental institutions, and regions. It also cannot come up with decisions that contradict their principles, which may shock the community.

Prince Sultan said that the

Commission started the program with the coordination of Ministry of Interior, Ministry of External Affairs, and Ministry of Hajj.

“In this program, we are implementing the vision and instructions of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz who is transforming the Kingdom politically, and economically with utmost care,” he said.

He pointed out that SCTNH started this program years ago and it took a long time to discuss with various agencies. The program is part of “The Kingdom Is Destination of Muslims”.



“We want Muslims to come to the Kingdom and enjoy comfort, stability, joy, and good treatment. In addition to the Kingdom being the destination of Muslims, they will know about Islamic historic sites and visit different regions of the country. They will also benefit from the avenues and conferences, economic activities, or trade between people. They will get to know the development, security and stability that our country is blessed with. At the same time, our country looks towards the future, works for it while maintaining Islamic traditions and principles.”

Prince Sultan had signed the

Responding to the demands of pilgrims and recent developments in the Kingdom contributed in launching this program.

Prince Sultan bin Salman

agreement to launch the program with Prince Khalid bin Saud bin Khalid, Assistant of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and member of SCTNH; Dr. Ahmed Mohammad Al-Salim, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior and member of SCTNH, and Dr. Eisa Mohammad Rawas, Undersecretary, Ministry of Hajj and Umrah Affairs Ministry and member of the SCTNH.

In a speech after signing the agreement, Prince Sultan confirmed that the launch of this national program came after years of hard work and detailed studies. It also came according to a decision approved by the SCTNH where 13 public departments participated with a number of appointed citizens who represent different areas of the Kingdom, after discussing with religious scholars, the Grand

Mufti and members of Senior Scholars Board.

The SCTNH chief concluded by saying that it took a long time to prepare various sectors. In addition, all security and service preparations have been completed to make the program a success. So it does not become a heavy burden on security and the services the country provides to pilgrims.

Prince Khalid bin Saud bin Khalid praised the program and described it as one of the essential national programs in which many institutions are participating. He said: "We in the Ministry of External Affairs took great interest in this program. One of the main reasons why we support this program and are in a hurry to implement it is the pilgrims' request to visit the Kingdom's regions and Islamic historic locations, in addition to seeing modern advancement in the Kingdom, visiting friends, and watch other activities. We found this program to be an opportunity to comply with the requests of the pilgrims, to serve them and our country at the same time."

Dr. Ahmed Mohammad Al-Salim praised Prince Sultan and his intensive follow-up with the program, and the support of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammad bin Naif, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Interior.

Dr. Eisa Mohammad Rwas, assured that this program rep-



resents a new step and mission that are based on organized scientific principles to serve the pilgrims. He added that the Kingdom is blessed with historic Islamic locations that a Muslim would want to visit. Visitors with Umrah visa can now visit these historical sites and other places. This is an incentive to the pilgrims.

"After - Umrah Tour" program includes organizing trips, among others, to Kingdom's landmarks, historical sites and tourist attractions. This would help pilgrims after performing

Umrah learn about the correct Islamic history, Kingdom's modern advancement, history, and its role in serving Islam and Muslims, in addition to meeting citizens which contributes in forming strong bonds with Muslims and the Holy Mosques.

In addition to citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), pilgrims from countries will benefit from this program. Transit passengers, business men, and distinguished visitors from different Islamic countries will be considered in another stage.

Appreciation for South Asia Pilgrims' Mutawwif's Establishment

The South Asia Pilgrims Mutawwifs Establishment recently received a number of appreciation and thank you letters from a large number of officials, ministers as well as from two university deans. With gratitude, the letters valued the establishment's efforts and contributions in the service of pilgrims in the holy city of Makkah. All praised "Al-Ahella" magazine for its outstanding role in shedding light on the establishment's activities and that of the government's contributions and efforts in the service of the holy mosques and the pilgrims.



By: Editorial Team

"Al-Ahella" showcases some of these letters as follows:

"Profound gratitude"

On 22.06.1437H His Excellency Shaikh Saleh Bin Abdul-Aziz Bin Muhammad Al-Ashiekh, Minister of Islamic Affairs & Dawah & Guidance Center, sent the first appreciation and thank you letter to Dr. Ra'fat Ismail Ibrahim Badr, Chairman, South Asia Pilgrims Mutawwifs Establishment, saying:

"I have received, with great appreciation, your letter No. 220 dated 19.05.1437 H com-



plimented with the 29th issue (11th year) of "Al-Ahella" magazine for the month of Jumada

Al-Awwal 1437H. I would hereby like to express my profound gratitude and appreciation for your kind consideration. I pray to Allah the Almighty, may He grant you success. May peace be upon you"

Meanwhile, in a letter, His Excellency Dr. Badran Bin Abdulrahman Al-Omar, Head of King Saud University, appreciated Dr. Ra'fat stating: "I have received your letter, with great gratitude, which was complemented with the 29th issue of "Al-Ahella" magazine for Jumada Al- Awwal 1437H."



Minster of Islamic Affairs; Secretary General of the Council of Ministers and Deans of King Saud and King Khalid University praise "Al-Ahella" magazine



Dr. Al-Omar thanked Dr. Ra'fat with best wishes and was all praises for the contents of the magazine.

"Pioneering magazine"
On 05.07.1437H, His Excellency Mr Abdulrahman Bin Muhammad Al-Sadhan, Sec-

retary General of the Council of Ministers sent an appreciation letter to Dr. Ra'fat saying: "With gratitude, I have



received your letter No 220 dated 19.05.1437H accompanied with the 29th issue of "Al-Ahella" magazine published by the pioneering South Asia

Pilgrims Mutawwifs Establishment. I thank you for your gesture and consideration. I wish you and your staff all success and prosperity."

Meanwhile, His Excellency Dr Abdulrahman Bin Hamad Al-Dawood, Dean, King Khalid University, thanked Board Chairman saying: "In regards to your letter, No 220 dated 19.05.1437H complimented with a copy of the 29th issue of "Al-Ahella" magazine for the month of Jumada Al-Awwal 1437H, it is with great pleasure that I thank you for this thoughtful dedication and may Allah bless you with reconcile and success"

In the meantime, on 24.07.1437H Mr. Ali Bin Salem Al-Abdali, Dean, Islamic Affairs and D'awa and Guidance Makkah branch, sent a thank you and appreciation letter to Dr. Ra'fat, saying: "I have received your letter No 220 dated 19.05.1437H along with a copy of the 29th issue "Al-Ahella" magazine for the month of Jumada A-Awwal 1437H. We liked its content of various and informative material. I thank you for reaching out to us and for this distinctive and valued dedication. I pray to Allah, may He bless your hard work and may your good deeds be rewarded."