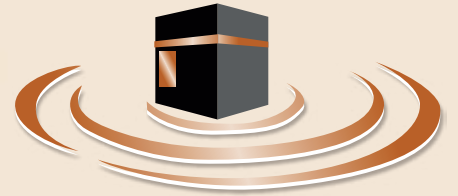


Al-Ahella



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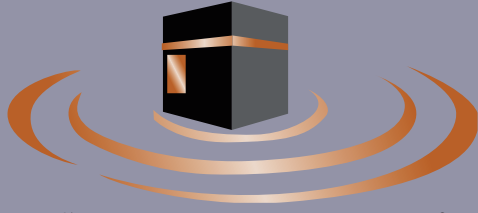
Vol. 12 - Issue 33 - Ramadan 1438H



**Crown Prince
chairs the Supreme
Hajj Committee meeting**

**The Establishment holds first meeting
to discuss preparations for Hajj 1438H**

**King Salman wins King Faisal International
Prize for Service to Islam**



مؤسسة مطوفي حجاج جنوب آسيا



بمناسبة قدوم شهر رمضان المبارك
يتشرف رئيس ونائباً وأعضاء مجلس إدارة
مؤسسة مطوفي حجاج دول جنوب آسيا
بتقديم خالص التهاني وأصدق التبريكات إلى
رؤساء مكاتب الخدمة الميدانية ومطوفي ومطوفات
المؤسسة وكافة منسوبيها

كل عام وانتم بخير

A new season with three blissful occasions

This new issue of Islamic Crescent magazine coincides with three blissful occasions.

The first is connected to the citizens of this gracious country and pertains to the issuance of several royal decrees that reflect the care and interests that the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Salman Bin Abdulaziz - Allah protect him - has for the citizens. The King issued in April a royal decree to restore financial allowances for civil servants and military personnel and directed that a two-month salary be paid to military personnel of the "Desert Storm" and "Restoration of Hope" operations. May Allah protect our King, leader of our country's blessed future. May Allah make him a source of strength for our country, its children and the majestic Islamic nation.

The second occasion is connected to our dear organization, South Asia Pilgrims Mutawiffs Establishment. Allah has blessed us with responsibility to create a process for determining managerial rights of the institution's field offices for the next four years. This system is transparent, fair, and clear. This came in the presence of Eng. Muhammad Aqqad,

Deputy Hajj and Umrah Minister for Pilgrims Affairs, and the Establishment's legal advisor Prof. Muhammad Al-Munis, as well as the Establishment's chairman and managing team in addition to all group heads who put forth their best efforts in winning this competition.

The Establishment is determined to serve the pilgrims and run the field service offices. Additionally, the Establishment in the coming weeks will sign several agreements to serve the pilgrims from our sister countries: Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, UAE and Bahrain. We hope the coming Hajj season, like the ones before, will be successful, Allah willing.

The third happy occasion is an Islamic occasion that is dear to our hearts: the coming of Ramadan, a blessed and magnanimous month, a month of mercy, forgiveness, and emancipation from the hellfire. May Allah bless us all with this merciful month year after year.

Lastly, on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan, I greet and congratulate our wise leaders on behalf of South Asia Pilgrims Mutawiffs Establishment and all our affiliates.

Editorial



Dr. Ra'fat Ismail Badr

Chairman of The Board of Directors
South Asia Pilgrims
Mutawiffs Establishment



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'Together we Prevail'

Under the slogan of “Together we Prevail,” Saudi Arabia hosted US President Donald Trump and the leaders and representatives of 55 Muslim countries on May 20 and 21 in Riyadh. The occasion was historic as President Trump was the first sitting US President to visit Saudi Arabia on his first foreign tour after winning the US presidential election in January this year.



Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz decorated President Trump with the King Abdul Aziz Medal, the highest Saudi civilian honor.

King Salman in his keynote address said: “Our responsibility before God and our people and the whole world is to stand united to fight the forces of evil and extremism wherever they are ...”

In his keynote, President Trump pledged to “strengthen America’s oldest friendships, and to seek new partners in pursuit of peace.”

The occasion renewed commitments to global security, trade, cultural and political ties in three major summits, viz.

1. The Saudi Arabia and United States summit;
2. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and United States summit; and

3. The Arab Islamic American summit to deepen historical ties on the basis of partnership and tolerance.

These summits, covered by over 500 media persons from all over the world, are a clear evidence that Saudi Arabia “seeks to bring the world together to confront violent extremist ideology” in partnership with its US and Islamic allies to improve the lives of people and strengthen collective economies.

During President Trump’s visit Kingdom and the US signed \$280 billion joint strategic vision pacts. Major business pacts included 13 deals.

A number of other events were organized which included inauguration of the Global Center for Combatting Extremist Ideology, the Royal Court Art Exhibition, the Riyadh Forum on Countering Extremism and

Fighting Terrorism, the Saudi-US CEO Forum 2017 and a visit to the King Abdulaziz Historic Museum.

The May 20 Saudi-US summit witnessed a series of bilateral meetings between the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Trump. They focused on reaffirming the long-standing friendship, and strengthening the close political, economic, security and cultural bonds between the two nations.

President Trump met with the leaders of the Muslim nations by using the Saudi window.

Summits in Riyadh are in fact a way to find common interests; build bridges; strengthen and consolidate economic and political cooperation.

Trump concluded his visit on May 22.



King Salman wins King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud received the King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam at the 39th edition of the prestigious prize this year.

Riyadh – Crescent

The King was chosen for this prestigious award to recognize his services to the Two Holy Mosques and their visitors and pilgrims; his interest in the Prophet’s biography; his support for the Historical Atlas project for the Prophet’s biography; Arab and Islamic heri-

tage, and the establishment of the King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Works which aims to unite Arabs and Muslims to confront the difficult conditions experienced by the Islamic and Arab nations.

The patronization ceremo-



ny of the 39th edition of King Faisal International Prize by King Salman which took place in Riyadh on the evening of Rajab 07, 1438 (April 04, 2017) began with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques met the winners of the King Faisal International Prize, welcomed everyone to Saudi Arabia, and congratulated them on winning the prestigious prize in various categories. He also photographed with the winners, and received a number of paintings created by Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Emir of Makkah and adviser to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

He also received a painting and a photo album on this oc-

The Kingdom shines forth with light and wisdom; setting forth a new means and vision; honoring knowledge and scholarship – Prince Khaled

casation presented by Prince Khaled Al-Faisal.

Honoring knowledge and scholarship

Speaking on the occasion, Prince Khaled Al-Faisal, who is also the Executive President of King Faisal Foundation and Chairman of King Faisal International Prize Committee, said: "In a world rocked by greed, with the young fight-

ing the old; with evil coming ever closer; with values being replaced by others that are empty; and with names of no known recognition, the Kingdom shines forth with light and wisdom; setting forth a new means and vision; honoring knowledge and scholarship; building a lofty tower of honor; healing wounds on the body of the Arab world, and sharing in the joy of the Muslim world. When the darkest of night approaches we ignite intellect as a guide, while others are confused we create solutions, allowing no place for the ignorant or frivolous. So stand with me and greet the King for his service to Islam, scholarship, peace, and the King Faisal International Prize."

The Secretary-General of



the King Faisal International Prize, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Sabeel, presented the winners with their awards. A film featuring the most important contributions of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud in the humanitarian and philanthropic fields and in the service of the two Holy Mosques was shown.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman then received the King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam for the year 2017 and later presented the prizes to other winners.

The prize for Islamic studies went to Prof. Ridwan Al-Sayyid

of the University of Lebanon, for his research and studies of Arabic Islamic jurisprudential and political heritage.

The prize for Arabic language and literature went to the Arabic Language Academy of Jordan for its efforts to transfer science and technology via translation, Arabize technical terms, publish specialized glossaries and make Arabic a language of instruction. The award was received by Dr. Khaled Al-Kirki, head of the academy.

Prof. Tadimitsu Kishimoto, a professor of immunology at Osaka University, Japan, received the prize for medicine for biologic therapeutics in autoimmune diseases.

The prize for science was shared by Prof. Daniel Loss, a professor of physics at Basel University, Switzerland, and Netherland's Professor Laurens Molenkamp of Wurzburg University of Germany for their exceptional contributions to physics.

Honored by the award

In a series of speeches, the winners expressed their pride in receiving the King Faisal International Prize which they received for their academic activities and their research in the various categories of the Prize. They praised the King Faisal International Prize for encouraging researchers and specialists in their fields of science.

Crown Prince chairs the Supreme Hajj Committee meeting

H RH Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Naif, Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior, who is also the Chairman of the Hajj Supreme Committee, chaired a meeting of the Hajj Supreme Committee on March 30. The meeting took place in the office the Crown Prince and was attended by members of both the royal family and the committee.



At the outset of the meeting, the Crown Prince emphasized that the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman is keen to provide all services, comfort and care to the pilgrims. He stressed that the performers of Umrah and all visitors to the Two Holy Mosques in Makkah and Madinah should perform their rituals in a peaceful and spiritual atmosphere.

He emphasized on the need to improve the services more and more to serve the guests of Allah both as a duty and a conviction during Haj and Umrah seasons.

Crown Prince Muhammad lauded the achievements made during the last Haj season. He confirmed the importance of raising the standard of services and exerting more efforts

to serve the pilgrims in the coming Haj season.

Dr. Said Al-Arrabi Al-Harithi, adviser to the Minister of Interior and Secretary-General of the Hajj Supreme Committee clarified that a number of topics were discussed in the meeting to improve services to the pilgrims; monitor Haj project, and the follow up services in different sectors.

Vision 2030 on the way to success



About a year after the launch of Vision 2030, HRH Prince Muhammad Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Crown Prince, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Chairman of the Council for Economic and Development Affairs, affirmed that the implementation of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 is through its envisaged vision. In a recent television interview on May 02, 2017, he said that "Vision 2030 as a three-tiered plan will be implemented with specific programs in three stages: The first running to 2020; the second until 2025, and the final phase to 2030. These are executive programs, with clear objectives, all recently launched during the recent Vision to 2020 Council for Economic and Development Affairs meeting so that we devote the remainder of 2017, and then the following years – 2018; 2019, and 2020 - to achieve these programs."



The programs

The Council for Economic and Development Affairs in its meeting on Shaban 04, 1438H (April 30, 2017) has identified 10 programs of strategic importance to the government to achieve Vision 2030 which were approved by the Council of Ministers under the chairmanship of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz on Rajab 18, 1437 (April 25, 2016). These programs are considered an update to those mentioned above, viz: National Transition Program 2020 and Financial Balancing Program 2020.

These 12 programs will support Vision 2030 and help in its realization. They will make the Kingdom's economy more prosperous, its society more vibrant while adhering to Islamic values and a well-established national identity.

These programs comprise the system through which the vision will be achieved, and the Council will monitor its implementation until 2020, following the established governance that ensures accountability, transparency and continuous active monitoring of the initiatives and their implementation.

Specialized agencies

A number of specialized agencies have been established at the government level within the Council for Economic and Development Affairs to draw up strategies and set goals, form programs, follow up on implementation and manage projects. This has contributed to developmental support and economic decision-making through close collaboration between all ministries concerned with economic development.

Executive plans

During the next four months, the specialized committees will work on de-



tailing the executive plans of these programs through these committees, each headed by a member of the Council for Economic and Development and comprised of member officials from the relevant authorities. These committees will be a permanent platform for reviewing the completion plans, managing the risks of government programs.

The program includes the following: Housing; Customer Services; Lifestyle improvement; Promoting Saudi identity; Leading national companies; Developing national industry and logistics; Public Investment Fund; Strategic partner-

Clear objectives; initiatives, and plans show positive achievements in the first year

ships, and Financial sector development.

The first report

On March 19, the first report on the state of the “National Transformation Program” was issued. It referred to the detailed plans of the program, which included 755 initiatives, including 640 initiatives received (529 approved plans, 111 plans un-

der process).

According to the report, a recommendation was made within the expected limits for the fiscal year 1438-39. The total appropriations for this year are SR 48.8 billion, while the total capital cost is SR74.9 billion, and the total costs for five years SR371.9 billion.

The report highlighted the state of development in each ministry and a joint body in the national transformation program during the past year, including the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah. The number of initiatives reached 30, of which 29 have already been initiated (97%).

Dr. Benten opens workshop to develop the Hajj and Umrah industry

His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Saleh Bin Taher Benten, Minister of Hajj and Umrah, inaugurated on Jumada Al-Thani 17, 1438 (March 16, 2017) the workshop for the development of Hajj and Umrah industry at the headquarters of the Makkah Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



He also met with the President and members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and businessmen in an open meeting in the presence of heads and employees of Tawafa agencies, (Tawaf agents, guides, Zamzam caretakers) to discuss the framework and strategy of the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah to strengthen its strategic partnerships with private sector. The meeting also dealt with the development of services and economics of Hajj and Umrah in the Kingdom.

Priority

While opening the workshop, Dr. Benten explained the keenness of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz, HRH Crown Prince Muham-



mad Bin Naif and HRH Deputy Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman, to establish a modern and advanced hospitality industry for Hajj and Umrah. The industry, based on professional, economic and global standards, will help serve the pilgrims with utmost ease and comfort.

Private sector

The minister confirmed that the private sector plays an

essential role in the development of the economy and services of Hajj and Umrah. "It will generate jobs and empower Saudi youths to serve in this strategic sector through the development of skills and rehabilitation," he said.

Dr. Benten also stressed the importance of providing a positive image of the services provided by the Kingdom to the guests of Allah.



The Establishment holds first meeting to discuss preparations for Hajj 1438H

Dr. Ra'fat Bin Ismail Badr, Chairman of The Board of Directors, Mutawiffy Hujjaj South Asia Establishment, attended the first meeting of heads of the new field service offices to discuss preparations for the coming 1438H Hajj season.

Makkah - Ahmad Al-Ahmadi

He greeted the heads of field service offices and thanked them for accepting the invitation to attend the meeting. "At the beginning of this meeting, I would like to express my thanks to all my colleagues and members of the Board of Directors of the Establishment. We are honored by Allah to serve the pilgrims and thank Him for this immense blessing and ask Him to give us all strength

in implementing these activities and for the privilege of running the field service offices for the next four years. I congratulate you all for this great honor that Allah has bestowed upon you. We, the Board of Directors of the Establishment, take great pride in the Establishment and acknowledge your efforts. I ask Allah Almighty to help us all to honor all those He has honored while serving guests



Dr. Ra'fat Bin Ismail Badr:

One Team Spirit : The way of our organization to achieve continuous success.

of the most Merciful.”

He continued: “This meeting is the first meeting in a series of meetings for the arrangement, coordination, consultation and exchange of views and planning for the Hajj season in 1438H. Before proceeding ahead I would love to congratulate you all for your successful efforts in the last pilgrimage season and the great success achieved from the institution’s operational plans. This level of success would not have been possible had it not been for the help from Allah Almighty first and foremost, and then the support of our government. In this season we hope to meet the great challenges to achieve

the same success again. We hope the pilgrimage season this year too will be a successful one, blessed by the grace of Allah and your noble efforts my dear brothers. It will indeed be a gift for each and every one of you for your efforts.”

Dedicated service

Dr. Badr said: “We, as Tawafa Agents for South Asian pilgrims – with gratitude to Allah - are known for understanding, consistency, dedication, commitment and teamwork to serve the pilgrims. We aspire to be and we will be - Allah willing – like this for our brothers who we support, standing shoulder to shoulder and walking hand in

hand. And in this administration as well, we wish to follow the same methodology, style and relations. Among you are our teachers, and people of different walks of life, but the common bond that binds us all is that we all serve the pilgrims from South Asian countries. We work as one team, complementing each other and harnessing our efforts to serve the pilgrims who come seeking blessing of Allah Almighty. We must do our best to serve them with professionalism, sincerity and devotion. Each one of you has been assigned to different offices, some to office #1 and others to office #10, but in the end we all serve the guests of Allah, so this is a trust from Allah and you are the people worthy to carry it.

He said that hard work will speak itself over the next few months. “And we must redouble our efforts and work diligently if we wish to win the field office management competition. If one is not lucky enough to win this competition, he will still be with us in field work, committee work, or working at the Establishment. The Establishment’s office heads are ready to help all in any way possible.”

Using E-systems

Dr. Badr clarified that the E-

system will commence during the next two days. “We have started last week the preparation and processing of administrative affairs system and in the next two days we will open a new page for the selection of office members. The Membership Council, whose goal before the competition is to take on the largest number of works possible, will continue to work together. We welcome every one working with us in the Establishment regardless of where they are from. The new heads of offices will have the ability to welcome all those interested in working in their respective offices. I had previously sat with those concerned and began working with them to create a means for this. My hope from them is to see the requisite diligence in using this system daily through the system’s website, reviewing new developments as they arise.

The office selection system, will be open as well as the member selection system. Members will be given an opportunity for 72 hours to set up their offices. The first office to complete its formation of field offices shall be awarded first place. For telephone lines, the company has been circulating data through the network and all the information needed can be seen on



Coordination underway with the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah for land allotment in Mina and Arafat.

the site so that installation of telephone lines can be done early.”

He further clarified: “We want new developments, we want to work on or the new things, we want to work on during the entire season, with mutual understanding, follow-up, and transportation of all buses from the airports to the pilgrim residential buildings directly which had begun during the last Hajj season and will continue in this Hajj season too.”

Buses in the Holy sites

Dr. Badr said that the bus system in the holy sites in the Hajj season this year will be different from the previous seasons. The General Union

of Motor Vehicles will be responsible for the distribution of buses and there will be procedures and workshops to explain the working. “In the implementation of this new system, which was issued under the guidance of His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Saleh Bin Taher Benteen, the Minister of Hajj and Umrah, we have held several meetings with the union. Several developments took place, such as the accreditation of the union and the transformation of union companies and service offices. Buses will come when requested through the system without going to companies, the same way in the days from Mina to Arafat and from Arafat to Muzdalifah until



Need to adhere to unified visual identity of the Establishment; unified cards for organizers soon

12/12/1438 AH, and the buses will be under the supervision of their guides.”

Additional services

He warned the field service offices not contract any additional services outside the scope of the market segment because the institution has a study that will be completed within a week to show what additional services can/should be provided in Mina or Arafat. The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah does not require any additional services. The segment has basic services, any additional service above and beyond this are required to be placed in the system so that they are monitored either by the supervisors of the institution or by the supervisory

authority (Ministry of Hajj and Umrah)

E-Services

Dr. Badr pointed out that when activating the electronic Hajj system, Hajj offices will enter the system to activate the organizers. “We will give our system to the organizers to choose the offices as they selected last year, as well as the segment they want, the additional services they want and the corresponding price for this service.”

He also pointed out that the monitoring committees of the Establishment started last week to conduct field tours to find the headquarters of the field service offices and to follow up on their e-prepared-

ness. Offices that were unable to complete their preparations must quickly do so, so that all the offices have chosen their sites and finished all preparations. Monitoring these committees and follow-up tours of the field on the headquarters of these offices will intensify to ascertain the extent of readiness.

He clarified: “There is coordination with the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah on the date when land in Mina and Arafat will be allotted and work will begin immediately. Invitations will be sent to you to distribute the sites as is normal each season.”

Visual identity

Dr. Badr spoke about the importance of visual identity of the organization, which includes its logo, letterhead and publications. “This identity must be unified. The institution will not adopt any aberrations and emphasizes the commitment to the visual identity of the institution. Regardless of whether it is in layout or the spacing between the organization’s logo and office address, these differences will not be accepted.”

He also pointed out that the Establishment will issue unified cards to the organizers. After the Eid Al-Fitr holidays, unified cards for all office

workers - from members, employees and contract holders - will be issued in uniform sizes.

Trains and Deployment

Dr. Badr stressed the need to pay attention to the plan for deployment to the Jamarat facility and to the train stations in the holy places. The officials in the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah and other relevant authorities stressed the importance of giving these subjects due attention and interest to the pilgrims of the institution to train stations and the Jamarat facility as planned. "We hope that all will give due attention and priority to this issue when working on Hajj season programs this year, when choosing the guides who monitor the pilgrims in their deployment from the offices to the train stations or from the offices to the Jamarat facility."

Security Issues

Dr. Badr addressed the issue of preserving the safety and security of the pilgrims. "We all should be keen on strengthening security escorts in the holy places round the clock and reporting any suspicious acts. These should be of the foremost considerations due to our country's



security being targeted. All suspicious matters should be handled with care and vigilance. We must create a distance between everything harmful, Allah forbid, and this country. This is a responsibility before Allah and in front of our rulers, Allah save them. Everyone must be vigilant to preserve the security and stability of this blessed country and the security and comfort of the guests of Allah."

He also dealt with on food supply in the holy places and stressed to the heads of the offices and officials responsible for their maintenance and the need to attend to this subject from now. "Preparation, processing and contracting with specialists must begin now to provide food services. They should review the system for this on the institu-

tion's website. Ensuring healthy meals to pilgrims is an ongoing commitment, and the health requirements provided by specialists in the institution must adhere to."

Individual Dues

Dr. Badr asked the heads of the offices to pay the dues of the individuals who contract with them immediately and abide by the terms of the contracts. In case of a problem with those people then it is imperative that they speak to the responsible authorities in the Establishment for appropriate solutions, he said.

An open discussion followed between the heads of the field service offices and Dr. Badr, who responded to all queries with all transparency, clarity and frankness.