

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

# SAUDI ARABIA

FOUNDING DAY SPECIAL

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEADERSHIP!



FEATURING



SAUDI ARABIA AND SINGAPORE SIGN MOU  
ON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL



INTERVIEW WITH THE FIRST WOMAN  
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES MRS MASHAEL SULIMAN  
ALSHAMARI, EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA IN  
SINGAPORE



SAUDI FOUNDING DAY  
CELEBRATION IN SINGAPORE



# Contents

Publisher  
Sun Media Pte Ltd

Editor-in-Chief  
Nomita Dhar

Editorial  
Lovelyn Palec  
Harits Abdurrahman  
Andi R. Fauzi  
Alma Amarthatia Azzahra

Design & Layout  
Padhiyar Jeet Pratapray

Photos  
Singapore Ministry of  
Culture and Information |  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs |  
Prime Minister's Office Singapore |  
Ministry of Digital Development  
and Information of Singapore |  
High Commission of India in  
Singapore |  
Michael Ozaki

MCI (P) 060/06/2023

Contact  
SUN MEDIA PTE LTD  
176 Orchard Road,  
The Centrepont, #05-05  
Singapore 238843.  
Tel: +65 9831 1675

Email  
edit@sunmediaonline.com  
business@sunmediaonline.com

Website  
www.indiplomacy.com  
www.sunmediaonline.com

Advertising enquiries:  
Tel: (65) 6735 2972

Printed by  
Print & Print Pte Ltd

Copyright 2025 by Sun Media Pte Ltd. The opinions, pronouncements or views expressed or implied in this publication are those of contributors or authors. They do not necessarily reflect the official stance of any other organisation or authorities. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of all information contained, the publisher cannot be held liable for loss incurred in any way whatsoever by a company or a person relying on this information.



**2**  
Saudi Arabia and Singapore  
Sign MOU on Strategic  
Partnership Council

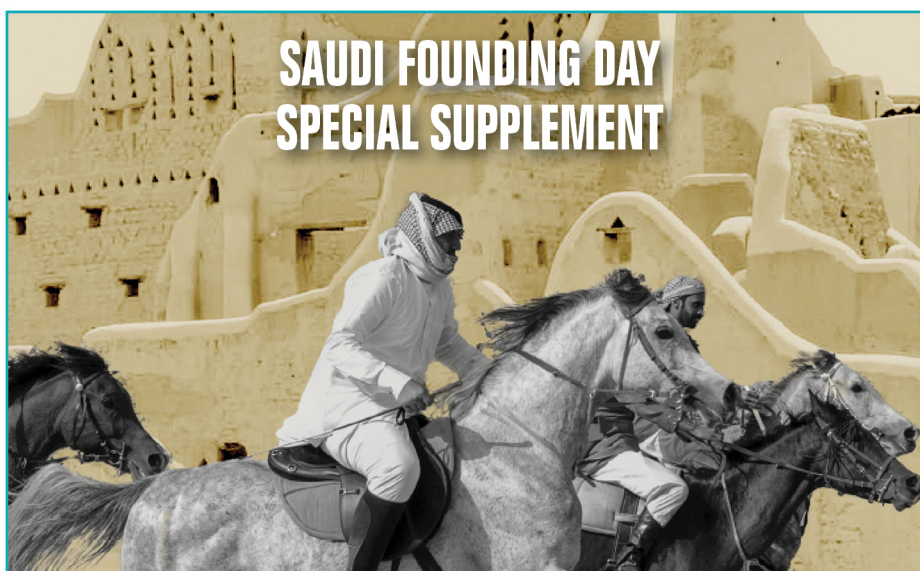
**3**  
4th Saudi Arabia - Singapore  
Joint Committee Ministerial  
Meeting



**6**  
Saudi Arabia: Embracing  
Heritage, Shaping The Future:  
A Vision 2030



**10**  
A Gift Dates From Saudi Arabia  
to Singapore



**SAUDI FOUNDING DAY  
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT**





## Saudi Arabia and Singapore Sign MOU on Strategic Partnership Council

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) H.H. Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud was on a working visit to Singapore from 14 to 15 January 2025. During his visit, the two countries signed the Saudi-Singapore Strategic Partnership Council aims to strengthen cooperation across politics, economics, defence, and people-to-people ties, marking a historic milestone in bilateral relations

collaboration across politics, economics, defence, security, and cultural exchanges.

Dr Balakrishnan highlighted the timely nature of the partnership, citing robust ties and the shared commitment to growth. He noted that in 2023, bilateral trade in goods reached S\$10.6 billion, while foreign direct investment from Saudi Arabia totalled S\$4.1 billion in 2022. Saudi Arabian companies such as Aramco and the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation have made significant investments in Singapore, further enhancing economic ties.

Beyond economics, the partnership also underscores cultural and religious collaboration, with Saudi Arabia playing a key role in facilitating pilgrimages for Singapore's Muslim community. Dr Balakrishnan expressed gratitude for Saudi Arabia's long-standing support and appealed for an increase in Singapore's Hajj quota.

Prince Faisal affirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to fostering deeper relations, emphasising alignment with Saudi Vision 2030, which presents new avenues for trade and investment. He praised Singapore's global financial hub status and welcomed opportunities for mutual growth.

The leaders also touched upon pressing global issues, including the Middle East conflict, advocating for a two-state solution and enhanced international humanitarian efforts. The signing of the MOU reflects the shared vision and aspirations of both nations' leaderships to unlock the full potential of this vibrant partnership.



In a significant step forward in bilateral relations, Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan and His Highness Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud, Minister of

During his visit, HH Prince Faisal called on Prime Minister Wong at the Istana. Prime Minister Wong reiterated the outstanding invitation for Crown Prince Mohammed to visit Singapore and looked forward to the convening of the inaugural Strategic Partnership (SP) Council. The Strategic Partnership (SP) was Singapore's first with a Middle Eastern country. Prime Minister Wong also expressed appreciation for Saudi Arabia's efforts in organising the Haj and conveyed Singapore's request for an increase in the Haj quota to help clear the backlog of Singaporean Muslims seeking to perform the Haj.

Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, to establish the Saudi-Singapore Strategic Partnership Council.

This landmark partnership, announced during Singapore's then-Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's visit to Saudi Arabia in October 2023, is Singapore's first strategic partnership with a Middle Eastern nation. Cochaired by Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, the council seeks to foster

## 4th Saudi Arabia - Singapore Joint Committee Ministerial Meeting



Singapore and KSA reaffirm robust partnership with new agreements on logistics, innovation, and vocational education

Second Minister for Trade and Industry Dr Tan See Leng co-chaired the 4th Saudi Arabia-Singapore Joint Committee (SSJC) Ministerial Meeting with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's (KSA) Minister of Transport and Logistic Services Eng. Saleh bin Nasser Al Jasser.

During the meeting, the co-chairs affirmed the robust partnership between the two countries and discussed potential areas of collaboration. Minister Tan said, "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of Singapore's key trading partners in the Middle East. Our economic partnership has strengthened since we started the SSJC in 2021. Since then, both countries have elevated bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership. Looking ahead, there is strong potential for both countries to continue collaborations in areas such as connectivity, digital economy, and innovation and energy."

Singapore and KSA have enjoyed growing economic relations. In 2024, KSA was Singapore's second-largest trading partner in the Middle East and 22nd-largest trading partner in the world. The bilateral trade in goods between our countries was about S\$10.8 billion, a 1.8% increase year-

on-year. In 2023, the bilateral trade in services between our countries was about S\$2.8 billion, a 19.3% increase year-on-year. As of 2023, Singapore's stock of direct investment abroad in KSA was about S\$600 million, a 276.3% increase year on year. Both have also begun negotiations to update the Bilateral Investment Treaty that entered into force in October 2007 to modernise the agreement.

Three Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed or exchanged during the meeting. These included an MoU on Cooperation in Logistics, which aims to facilitate the exchange of best practices and deepen collaboration in logistics. Another MoU focused on port automation and sustainable supply chains, signed between PSA Ventures and Saudi Arabia's National Industrial Development and Logistics Program (NIDLP), seeks to drive innovation by supporting start-ups and developing Minimum Viable Products (MVPs). Additionally, the Implementation Programme for technical and vocational training between Singapore's Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and Saudi Arabia's Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) aims to enhance cooperation in education and training.



# Honouring Heritage: Saudi Founding Day Celebrations in Singapore



The Saudi Embassy in Singapore hosted a celebration and exhibition, bringing together diplomats, business leaders, and the Saudi community to commemorate the nation's Founding Day.

The Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Singapore hosted a vibrant celebration and exhibition in honour of Saudi Founding Day, highlighting the Kingdom's rich heritage and historical journey. The event, held at Suntec Singapore, welcomed Chargé d'Affaires Mrs. Mashael Suliman AlShamari, who received ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps, Saudi citizens, and representatives from various sectors and businesses in Singapore.

The exhibition showcased key milestones in Saudi Arabia's history, cultural artefacts, and visual displays narrating the nation's progress since its founding. Guests had the opportunity to engage with interactive exhibits,



explore traditional Saudi crafts, and enjoy authentic Arabian hospitality. A key highlight of the event was the inclusion of cultural elements through dedicated stalls from major Saudi entities such as Aramco, SABIC, and others, offering insights into the Kingdom's advancements in industry, innovation, and sustainability.

The event also served as a platform for strengthening diplomatic and business ties between Saudi Arabia and Singapore, underscoring opportunities

for collaboration in trade, investment, and cultural exchange.

The evening was marked by a speech reflecting on Saudi Arabia's transformation and aspirations for the future. The celebration concluded with a networking session, fostering deeper connections between the Saudi and Singaporean communities.









Shahidah Travel & Tours Pte Ltd wishes  
**HAPPY FOUNDING DAY**  
 Celebrating the history and future of Saudi Arabia.

**Shahidah Travel & Tours**  
 has been serving the market since 1983,  
 and we look forward to continuing our role  
 in Saudi Arabia's growth journey.



**Appointed partner  
for Saudi Arabia  
Railways**



**Working towards becoming  
the official agent for Aroya Cruise  
in Singapore and Malaysia**



390 Victoria Street, #01-26/25, Golden Landmark, Singapore 188061  
 Tel : +65 6299 2345 | WhatsApp : +65 9072 9982





**SixAlliance**  
 Offshore Innovation

M: +966 50 857 0943 / +65 96892497  
 Road No 114, 01st Jubail Industrial Area, Al Jubai- 31961, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Six Alliance congratulates  
 the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on its Founding Day!

HAPPY FOUNDING DAY

**Saudi Arabia**

FROM



INTERNATIONAL  
 GIAS Number: C002400

**ST&T International Pte Ltd**  
**Singapore Office:** 390 Victoria Street #01-25, Golden Landmark Singapore 188061 ☎+65 6295 0012 📞+65 9136 2973  
**Saudi Arabia Office:** Level 7, Al Murjanah Tower, Corner of Prince Sultan and Alkayyal Streets, Jeddah 21433  
 ☎📞 +966 5973 16004  
**Email:** enquiry@stntinternational.com **Website:** www.stntinternational.com



## INTERVIEW



## Saudi Arabia: Embracing Heritage, Shaping the Future: A Vision 2030

Interview with the first woman Chargé d'Affaires  
Mrs Mashael Suliman AlShamari, Embassy of  
Saudi Arabia in Singapore

### The Significance of the Founding Day

King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, issued a Royal Decree to commemorate the founding day annually on February 22nd, which represents the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's deep historical, civilisational, and cultural roots when Imam Muhammad bin Saud established the first Saudi state in 1139 AH / 1727 CE. The Founding Day commemorates the three centuries of the existence of the Saudi State, highlighting its historical and civilizational depth, celebrating its diverse cultural heritage, and expressing devotion to the imams, kings, and citizens who serve the nation.

The difference between the Founding Day, February 22, 1727 CE, and the National Day is that the former celebrates the first Saudi State (the founder, Imam Muhammad bin Saud). However, the National Day, September 23, 1932 CE, is the day for the declaration of Saudi Arabia's unification at the hands of the unifier King Abdulaziz bin Abdul Rahman Al-Faisal Al Saud, may Allah rest his soul.

### Strengthening the national identity in Saudi Arabia

The Founding Day is celebrated to honour the solid roots of the Saudi State, the strong bond between citizens and their leadership, and the accomplishments of the Saudi State in terms of unity, stability, and security. It is also celebrated to honour the First Saudi State's resilience and defence against enemies. In fact, it is celebrated to commemorate the continuity of the Saudi State and the restoration of its roots and leadership. All these feelings of gratitude and pride in the great legacy which our ancestors left us deepen our sense of identity and enhance our patriotism.

### The Planning Process of the Founding Day Event in Singapore

The focus of the Founding Day event held here in Singapore was to present the core values, the prominent traditions, and the unique cultural identity of Saudi Arabia. It also aimed at cherishing the solid roots of the Saudi State and the close bonds between us, the citizens and our leaders.

**Saudi Arabia**  
Global Leadership in Women's Empowerment

The Kingdom continues to support women's empowerment at all local, regional, and international levels, as the Kingdom currently chairs the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations in New York for the year 2025

**Saudi Arabia's Key International Efforts in Women's**

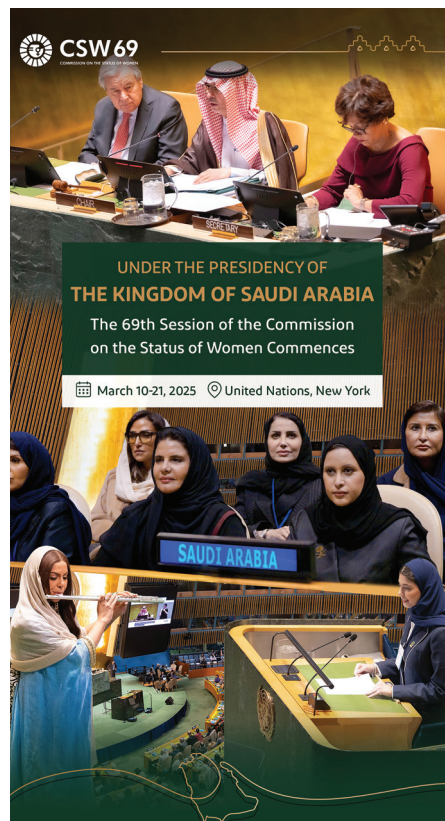
- Launched the "EMPOWER" coalition to advance women's leadership in the private sector during its G20 presidency
- Declared Riyadh as the Capital of Arab Women (2020) to support Arab efforts in this regard
- Hosted the "Women in Islam Conference" and issued the "Jeddah Document" that reinforces women's rights rooted in Islam
- Won the United Nations Award (2020) for women's empowerment in the information technology sector

**Women's Empowerment in Saudi Arabia:**

<b>54.5 %</b> Women's employment rate in the education sector	<b>40.6 %</b> Women-owned enterprises in the private sector	<b>35.4 %</b> Women's participation in the public and private sectors exceeded the goals of Vision 2030
--	--	--

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
08 March 2025 / 08 Ramadan 1446

WWW.MOFA.GOV.SA



The event aimed at cherishing the national unity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well by highlighting its beautiful identity in terms of culture and values.

### Key displays and highlights at the event

As I mentioned earlier, the focus of the event was to cherish the unique Saudi culture, so there were displays of the traditional Saudi clothing for both males and females, traditional food stalls where the guests enjoyed Saudi coffee and dates from all regions of the vast kingdom, highlighting the subtle differences among each. So all aspects of the Saudi culture were highlighted in the event, including food, clothing, music and cultural artifacts and core values such as hospitality and generosity.

### Saudi-Singaporean relations development

Having celebrated the Saudi Founding Day here in Singapore with many Singaporean diplomats, officials, businessmen and citizens gracefully accepting the invitation and attending the event is living proof of the close cultural and economic relations which the two countries enjoy.

### Current investment opportunities in Saudi Arabia

The business-friendly reforms under Vision 2030 are welcoming foreign investors from all around the world. Saudi Arabia has liberalised its rules and regulations relating to the formation of companies in the country by foreigners and locals. Another major reform contributing to more excellent foreign investment was to allow 100% foreign ownership of the companies without needing a local partner, permitting greater control of the company by the foreign investor. These initiatives are instrumental in establishing many businesses in the country.

### Specific sectors or industries in Saudi with strong potential for Singaporean investors

The efforts put forward by the initiatives of the Vision has opened the door to foreign investors in many sectors that might attract Singaporean investors as well such as urban development and logistics, and transportation making the Saudi market a key draw for Singaporean firms in these sectors.

There are also the manufacturing industry, defense technology, automotive industry, fintech companies and information technology sector.

### Events and initiatives for deeper collaboration between the two countries

The two countries Saudi Arabia and Singapore already enjoy a deep collaborative relationship evident by the recent visit (last January) of the Saudi Foreign Minister his Highness Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud to meet with the Singaporean Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan to further the newly established Saudi-Singapore Strategic Partnership. Between the two countries, there are many common grounds where deep collaboration is encouraged such as supporting Singaporean Muslims to perform the pilgrimage, fostering deeper people-to-people ties and enhancing economic, educational and religious collaboration.

### Singaporean Companies engage with 2030

As I mentioned earlier, the business-friendly reforms under Vision 2030 are welcoming foreign investors from all around the world. Saudi Arabia has liberalized its rules and regulations relating to the formation of companies in the country by foreigners and locals.

Another major reform contributing to more excellent foreign investment was to allow 100% foreign ownership of the companies without needing a local partner, permitting greater control of the company by the foreign investor. These initiatives are instrumental in establishing many businesses in the country.

There is a multitude of ways in which companies and entrepreneurs can engage considering the wide-range of business sectors which are thriving under the efforts put forward by the Vision; such as manufacturing, renewable energy, transport and logistics, tourism, digital infrastructure, healthcare, technology and innovation, such as FinTech and Information and Communication Technology, Leisure and Hospitality sectors, education, business setups, infrastructure, entertainment with reforms specially implemented to suit foreign investment.

### Message to Singapore about Saudi transformation

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 is living proof of the huge transformation which is the kingdom is going through in terms of the kingdom's aspirations to unlock the potential of its people and create a diversified, innovative, and world-leading nation. The desired transformation comes with a multitude of potential and opportunities manifested by the kingdom's rich cultural heritage and strategic advantages and solid economy. This enormous potential is steering the nation towards a more diversified, innovative and thriving economy, vibrant society and a prosperous future.

The opportunities are also evident in the reforms have been made to enhance the business climate, create jobs, and invite investment. The opportunities are also evident in the efforts put forward to by the Kingdom to prepare its people for tomorrow's world, a world that is connected, technology-forward, and facing climate change head-on. The opportunities are also manifested by the fact that Saudi Arabia's doors are now open even wider to the world, with investments pouring into sectors like renewable energy, tourism, entertainment, and other key industries. With all that's happening in the country today and with the growing momentum of Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia truly is the land of now.

### As we celebrate international women's day and as a first female Chargé d'Affaires at the Saudi Embassy in Singapore, what would you say about the state of a women in Saudi Arabia?

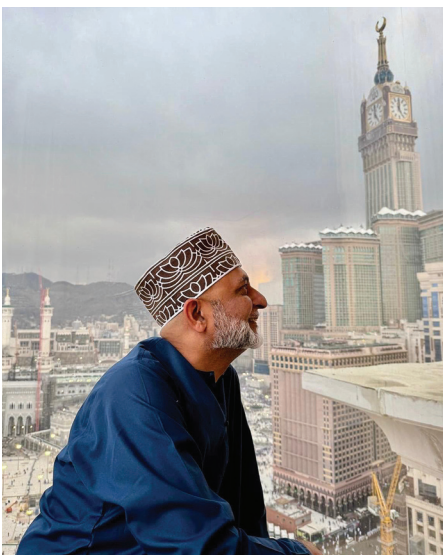
Saudi women are making strides in the workforce, education, and entrepreneurship, driven by the government's Vision 2030 plan. Key reforms and initiatives include: Increased labor force participation (20% to 35% since 2018), Anti-discrimination laws and Women's empowerment programs

You can see more women in the labour force and they are in all kinds of sectors, the growth and opportunities currently for my country are unprecedented. I feel very privileged to be in Singapore representing Saudi Arabia.



# Ramadan in Saudi Arabia: A Spiritual Tapestry of Faith, Community, and Generosity

Feroz Siddiqui, a Singaporean living in Riyadh shares his unique experience of observing the blessed month of Ramadan in Saudi Arabia



Having lived across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries for over two decades, I have witnessed the unique ways each nation honours the blessed month of Ramadan. Yet, no place resonates with the essence of this sacred month quite like Saudi Arabia. Here,

Ramadan is not merely a month of fasting; it is a profound cultural and spiritual experience, woven into the very fabric of daily life - a symphony of devotion, serenity, and nocturnal vitality that lingers long after the crescent moon fades.

## **Ramadan: A Month of Piety and Global Reverence**

Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, is revered by over 2 billion Muslims worldwide as a time of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community bonding. It commemorates the revelation of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and is marked by sawm (fasting from dawn to sunset), one of Islam's Five Pillars. Abstaining from food, drink, and worldly desires fosters self-discipline, empathy for the less fortunate, and spiritual renewal. To the novice observer, Ramadan

in Saudi Arabia might appear as a mere inversion of daily rhythms - a postponement of hustle to the night. But this is only the surface. To truly know Ramadan, one must breathe it in. Take, for example, my non-Muslim friends who, captivated by the month's spirit, fasted for a day or two to grasp its essence. They discovered not just the physical challenge of abstaining from food and water under the scorching sun but the mental discipline required to curb the tongue - eschewing gossip, resisting curses, and responding to provocations (like a driver cutting their lane) with patience. Ramadan is not merely about hunger; it is a masterclass in empathy, urging us to share our meals with strangers and part with wealth for those in need, solely for God's pleasure.

Some might ask: "What of the rest of the year? Does virtue vanish

once Ramadan ends?" To this, I say Ramadan is our annual reset - a vivid blueprint for how life ought to be lived. It is a training ground, sharpening self-restraint, kindness, and gratitude, reminding Muslims that these ideals are not seasonal obligations but lifelong commitments.

Without Ramadan's spiritual "gutter guards" - those divine reminders that nudge us back to the straight path - we might lose our way in the distractions of daily life. The month's lessons linger like the scent of bakhoor in a mosque: subtle, persistent, and transformative.

### **Ramadan in Saudi Arabia: A Spiritual Epicenter**

Saudi Arabia's significance during Ramadan is unparalleled, rooted in its role as the cradle of Islam. For residents and pilgrims, the opportunity to perform Umrah (the lesser pilgrimage) during Ramadan is transformative. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) stated, "Umrah during Ramadan is equivalent to Hajj" (Bukhari). Living in Saudi Arabia grants unparalleled access to Makkah and Madinah, where the spiritual energy is electric.

The Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah become epicenters of Ramadan's spiritual fervor. During Maghrib, volunteers distribute free iftar packs at the Harams - simple yet hearty meals of dates, water, laban, and Saudi staples like jareesh - to ensure no worshipper breaks their fast empty-handed. Meanwhile, the tradition of I'tikaf (spiritual retreat) thrives in Masjid Nabawi, where thousands sequester themselves in the mosque's vast courtyards and prayer halls during Ramadan's final ten nights, immersed in Quranic recitation and reflection.

This month also sees a surge in Umrah numbers, with millions flocking to Makkah and Madinah. Saudi authorities report a 30-40% increase in pilgrims during Ramadan, drawn by the Prophet's (PBUH) promise of Hajj-equivalent rewards.

The Haramain's marble floors are carpeted with a mosaic of humanity - Indonesians in batik skullcaps, Nigerians in embroidered kaftans, Emiratis in crisp white kanduras - a testament to Ramadan's unifying power.

### **The Sacred Nights: Tranquility, Taraweeh, and Qiyam al-Layl**

The month's pinnacle is Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Decree), when worship carries more blessings than a thousand months (Quran 97:1-5). Beyond individual devotion, Ramadan unites Muslims globally in shared rituals - from iftar (breaking the fast) gatherings to nightly Taraweeh prayers. This universal observance underscores Islam's emphasis on compassion, gratitude, and collective upliftment.

Ramadan's nights in Saudi Arabia are a realm of transcendent peace. The Taraweeh prayers, performed after Isha, transform mosques into sanctuaries of collective rhythm. Rows of worshippers move in unison, their whispers of "Ameen" echoing like a gentle tide. But it is the last ten nights - the pursuit of Laylat al-Qadr - that elevate the atmosphere to something ethereal.

Past midnight, the mosques grow quieter, yet fuller. The lights dim to a warm amber glow, casting soft shadows that ripple across marble floors like whispers. The scent of bakhoor - oud incense - hangs heavy in the air, its smoky sweetness entwined with the musk of devotion. In these sacred hours, the imam's recitation takes on a haunting beauty, each note resonating deeper than the last. One night in Alkhobar, I noticed quiet whimpers beside me and noticed him crying as a child, as the sheikh's voice cascaded through Surah Ar-Rahman. Each verse unfurled like an invocation, a reminder of divine mercy - so palpable you could almost touch it.

For families, these nights become a cherished ritual. My children, though young, insisted on joining Qiyam al-Layl (late-night prayers). They'd fidget through the first few rak'ahs but sit spellbound during the melodious dua.

Afterward, we'd drive through the hushed streets to grab suhoor at their favourite Tim Hortons or Burger Fuel. My daughter once giggled, "It's like a secret adventure - praying, then eating pancakes and burgers while the world sleeps!"

### **Scenes of Charity: A Nation's Generosity Unleashed**

Saudi Arabia's culture of sadaqah (charity) shines brightest in Ramadan. Benevolence is everywhere: mosques host lavish iftar for all, while people distribute dates, water, or food packets to strangers. One unforgettable sight is the "Ramadan tents" lining streets, where volunteers serve meals to laborers, drivers, and anyone hungry.

Anecdotes abound. In Riyadh, I once saw a young man distribute dates and water bottles to delivery riders minutes before Maghrib. "This is my family's tradition," he smiled. "No one should break their fast alone." In Jeddah, a local bakery owner converts his shop into a charity hub, offering free bread and sweets. Such gestures, large and small, embody the Quranic ethos: "Whoever saves a life, it is as though they saved all of humanity".

### **Ramadan A Month Like No Other**

To experience Ramadan in Saudi Arabia is to witness faith in motion - a harmony of worship, generosity, and unity. The privilege of Umrah, the culture of charity, and the relentless efforts to ensure no one is excluded from Ramadan's blessings create an atmosphere unlike any other. The tranquility of dimly lit mosques at midnight, the resonance of Quranic verses that stir the soul, and the joy of sharing suhoor in a fast-food booth with loved ones - these moments crystallize the essence of Ramadan.

For Muslims, it is a reminder of their spiritual roots; for non-Muslims, a lesson in humanity's capacity for goodwill. As the crescent moon heralds Eid al-Fitr, one leaves this month not just nourished by faith, but inspired by a society that turns devotion into action, and night into a canvas for connection.



## A Gift of Dates from Saudi Arabia to Singapore



The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) delivered 25 tons of dates as a gift from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Republic of Singapore

Representing KSrelief, Chargé d'Affaires at the Saudi Embassy in Singapore, Mashael Al-Shamari, officially handed over the aid to the Chief Executive Officer of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS), Kadir Maideen. The handover ceremony took place at the MUIS headquarters in Singapore, attended by a KSrelief delegation and key representatives from both sides.

This initiative is part of Saudi Arabia's ongoing humanitarian efforts to support friendly and brotherly nations, ensuring that essential aid reaches those most in need. The donation underscores the strong diplomatic and humanitarian ties

between Saudi Arabia and Singapore, reflecting a shared commitment to global relief efforts.

KSrelief continues to play a vital role in international aid, delivering food supplies, medical assistance, and emergency relief to countries worldwide. This latest contribution of dates aligns with its mission to enhance food security and support communities during key religious and cultural occasions.



## Iftar Celebrations by the Embassy of Saudi Arabia

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted an exclusive women-only Iftar celebration, led by Chargé d'Affaires Mrs. Mashael Suliman AlShamari. Held at the scenic Marina Bay, the event brought together ambassadors, Saudi citizens, and representatives from various sectors in Singapore.

The Iftar gathering underscored Saudi Arabia's commitment to fostering cultural exchange and strengthening diplomatic relations with Singapore and the wider international community. Attendees enjoyed a traditional Arabian feast, featuring an array of authentic Saudi dishes, reflecting the Kingdom's rich culinary heritage. The event also provided a



platform for networking and discussions on ongoing collaborations between Saudi Arabia and Singapore in areas such as trade, investment, and cultural diplomacy.

Mrs. AlShamari expressed gratitude for the presence of distinguished guests, emphasising the values of unity, tolerance, and interfaith dialogue that Ramadan embodies. She highlighted Saudi Arabia's dedication to fostering

international partnerships and commended Singapore for its role as a global hub for business and diplomacy.

The evening concluded with prayers and reflections, reinforcing the significance of Ramadan as a time for spiritual renewal, generosity, and community bonding. Guests lauded the initiative as a meaningful occasion to deepen cultural understanding and enhance bilateral ties.