

# PM thanks King Salman

## Muhyiddin: Deeply grateful to be allowed to enter the Kaabah

**MADINAH:** Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and his wife Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman performed the umrah on Sunday as part of their visit to Saudi Arabia.

They also visited Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) tomb in Madinah and the Nabawi Mosque before embarking on other official programmes during their official visit to the kingdom.

"While performing the umrah, I prayed on behalf of Muslims in Malaysia so that we will always be under His protection, for the whole world be free from the pandemic as well as for Muslims in Malaysia and all over the world to have the opportunity to return to the Holy Land as Allah's guests," he said in a posting on his official Facebook page on Sunday.

The Prime Minister, who completed his umrah at 10pm on Saturday (3am on Sunday, Malaysian time), was also given the opportunity to enter the Kaabah.

Muhyiddin, who is the first head of foreign government permitted to enter the Kaabah after it was closed for more than a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, also shared a video of his umrah ritual.

The Prime Minister is in Saudi Arabia for a four-day official visit at the invitation of the Saudi Arabian King and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

Muhyiddin said the kind gesture by King Salman to allow him to enter the Kaabah made him emotional and deeply grateful, saying that it was proof of the sense of brotherhood and respect for Muslims in Malaysia from the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He said the Saudi government paid serious attention to healthcare among Muslims and believed that the land of the prophets would soon be enlivened again with Muslims performing the umrah and making



**Honoured:** Muhyiddin (centre) is the first foreign head of government in Saudi Arabia to be allowed to enter the Kaabah after it was closed for more than a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. — Bernama

the pilgrimage.

"On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I thank His Highness King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Prince Mohammad bin Salman, for inviting me to Saudi Arabia," he added.

The visit to Saudi Arabia was an invitation extended in April 2020 by

King Salman.

Earlier, Deputy Governor of Madinah, Prince Saud bin Khalid Al Faisal, and Malaysian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Datuk Abd Razak Abdul Wahab received Muhyiddin and his entourage when they landed at the Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Madinah at 5.50pm (10.50pm in

Malaysia) on Sunday.

He and his entourage will travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) today to meet with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who is also the Ruler of Dubai. — Bernama