



## Be proactive and develop competencies, says His Majesty

**LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, December 22** - The Government of Brunei Darussalam will always give priority on education as an investment to produce knowledgeable and skilled human resources, with the quality of trustworthiness, of integrity and visionary.

Thus, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam advised students to increase their knowledge through formal means, and at the same time to be proactive in developing other competencies in shaping their character through co-curriculum activities and capacity-building programmes.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah* (royal speech) during a Get-Together Ceremony with Citizens and Residents of Brunei Darussalam who are currently in the United Kingdom and Eire held at the London Hilton on Park Lane Hotel, London.

His Majesty reminded, besides academic excellence, other aspects such as leadership and the steadfastness of personality to be made into consideration for the relevant parties that offer government's scholarships.

His Majesty also advised the students to be wise in weighing and evaluating the diversity of cultures and lifestyles abroad, without neglecting their religion, identity and language, which are the pride of our nation.

His Majesty also congratulated the students who had completed their studies this year and hoped their success

would be a catalyst for future excellence and would also be an inspiration for other students.

In closing the *titah*, His Majesty prayed for the well-being of the students and officers and may they always be in the protection of Allah the Almighty.

Accompanying His Majesty to the ceremony were Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

Earlier, Their Majesties had a

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* during a Get-Together Ceremony with Citizens and Residents of Brunei Darussalam in the United Kingdom and Eire.

## Brunei to export Muskmelon to China

**BEIJING, December 17** - The Protocol Signing Ceremony between the General Administration of Customs People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) on Phytosanitary Requirements for the export of fresh melon from Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of China was held on December 16 at Xinhui Jinjiang Hotel, Beijing.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, signed the protocol on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, while the People's Republic of China was represented by His Excellency Dr. Zhang Jiwen, Deputy Minister for General Administration of Custom People's Republic of China.

The signing was held in conjunction with the 3-day working visit by the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism to the People's Republic of China.

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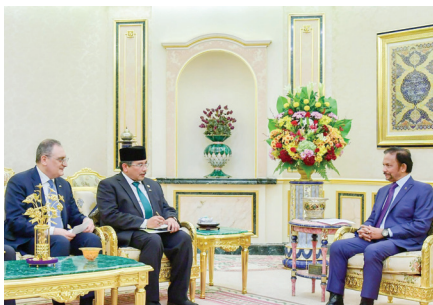
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## His Majesty receives audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

1. His Excellency Igor Morgulov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on December 7.
2. His Excellency Do Anh Tuan, the Outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam on December 7.



## Her Majesty receives audience

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from Madam Nguyen Thi Minh Hang, spouse of the Outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam on December 9.



## His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, UAE, and to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Defence, UAE, as well as to the government and the people of the UAE on the auspicious occasion of its National Day on December 2.
- His Excellency Bounnhang Vorachit, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and His Excellency Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the government as well as the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the occasion of its 44<sup>th</sup> National Day on December 2.
- His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, King of Thailand and His Excellency General Prayuth Chan-o-cha (Rtd), Prime Minister of Thailand, the government and the people of the Kingdom of Thailand on the occasion of its National Day on December 5.
- His Excellency The Right Honourable Boris Johnson, MP, following his party's victory in the recent General Election and his re-appointment as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on December 13.
- His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar and His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister and Interior Minister of the State of Qatar, the government as well as the people of the State of Qatar on the auspicious occasion of its National Day on December 18.

# His Majesty attends polo match



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar.

**CALATANGAN, REPUBLIC OF PHILIPPINES, December 1** - Brunei Darussalam's polo team won the bronze medal after defeating the Republic of Indonesia by 5-4 at the 30<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games (30<sup>th</sup> SEA Games). The match took place at Inigo Zobel Polo Facility, Catalagan.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to watch the polo match.

Among members of the Brunei Darussalam's polo team were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah.

Also present to watch the match were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, as the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar; and Huzaimi bin Haji Mahari together with other members of Brunei Darussalam's polo team with their medals.

## Al-Quran as companion, guidance

9<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Youth Al-Quran Reading Competition 1441H/2019M

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5** – Embrace the Al-Quran as a companion, it should not be limited to carrying it around, and its teaching should be recited, studied and put into practise.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered the *titah* (royal speech) at the prize presentation ceremony of the 9<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Youth Al-Quran Reading Competition 1441 Hijrah/2019 Masihi, which took place at the International Convention Centre.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam added that it is important to treat our surroundings with Al-Quran so that our epoch will be healthy and glorious.

His Majesty also emphasised the crucial role of youth as they are the foundation for significant changes to the community, including changes from undesirable values to more acceptable ones and all of these can be achieved by using the Al-Quran as guidance.

Therefore, His Majesty hoped that the country will continue to produce more youth who are well-versed in Al-Quran through the Southeast Asian Youth Al-Quran Reading Competition.

Accompanying His Majesty to the event was His Majesty's sons, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

At the event, His Majesty consented to present prizes to the winners as well as other participants of the competition and souvenirs to the judges.

Kamaruddin G. Zaidon from the Republic of Philippines was crowned as champion for qari's category, while Dayangku Siti Ummi Syazana binti Pengiran Haji Marjuki from Brunei Darussalam emerged as the champion of qariah. Each winner received His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Challenge Trophy, a prize, participation certificate and \$5,000 cash prize.

Hadi bin Mohd Sharkawi from Malaysia and A'tiiqah binti Suhaimi from the Republic of Singapore won second place and received a prize, participation certificate and \$4,000 cash prize.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* during the prize presentation ceremony of the 9<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Youth Al-Quran Reading Competition 1441 Hijrah/2019 Masihi.

Meanwhile, Abdul Mu'in bin Haji Abdul Hamid from Brunei Darussalam and Nurul Husna binti Sharif from Malaysia acquired third place and received a prize, participation certificate and \$3,000 cash prize.

A total of 22 participants from ASEAN member states and Timor-Leste competed in the three-day competition.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents award to Kamaruddin G. Zaidon, champion for qari's category from the Republic of Philippines and Dayangku Siti Ummi Syazana binti Pengiran Haji Marjuki, champion for qariah's category from Brunei Darussalam.



Al-Quran as companion, guidance



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam together with His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik at the event.

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On December 3, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah officiated the Opening of the 9<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Youth Al-Quran Reading Competition for 1441 Hijrah/2019 Masihi.

Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

During the opening ceremony, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince in his *sabda* (royal speech) highlighted that youth play a vital role in moulding the region's future development against various challenges brought by globalisation including current information technology advancement.

Hence, this competition is envisioned to become a stage to shape youth with better and holistic characters, so they will not easily fall into doing things forbidden by Allah the Almighty.



His Majesty and Their Royal Highnesses being greeted upon arrival at the International Convention Centre.



The attendees at the Opening of the 9<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Youth Al-Quran Reading Competition 1441 Hijrah/2019 Masihi.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti reading a *Doa Selamat* to bless the ceremony.

# Brunei December Festival 2019 launched

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 8** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam launched the Brunei December Festival (BDF) 2019 at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

Also present were His Majesty's sons, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Shortly after the arrival, His Majesty officiated the BDF 2019.

His Majesty and His Majesty's sons then led the 11.5 kilometres cycling event along several main roads in the capital.

The cycling event were also participated by Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Ambassadors and foreign envoys, Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and the public including foreign visitors.

Subsequently, after joining the cycling event, His Majesty watched the Domino project by students from Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) in cooperation with the Brunei Reading and Literacy Association (RELA). The project has been recognised in the Brunei Book of Records which depicted interesting features of 60,000 pieces of dominoes.

His Majesty and other members of the royal family also visited the

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam officiates the Brunei December Festival 2019.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam together with His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik tours one of the exhibitions.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah viewing the domino exhibition.

## Brunei December Festival 2019 launched



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik joins the cycling event.

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event organisers' booths that showcased their respective activities including food festivals, Islamic festival, culture and creative arts, recreation, sports and adventure as well as strategic partners of BDF 2019.

One of the highlights at the event was an exhibition of interconnected kites with a total of 215 kites by members of the Brunei Darussalam Kites Association (PEKIKIK).

The festival is the third edition of BDF organised by Brunei Tourism Board in collaboration with the Ministry of Primary Resources and

Tourism and supported by the Ministry of Finance and Economy; Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Religious Affairs; and Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications.

The BDF event attracted over 90,000 visitors in 2017 and 173,561 visitors in 2018.

The festival is one of the government's initiatives to encourage Bruneians to be active while on holiday, and attract tourists to visit the country with various exciting activities.

## Knowledge and practice co-exist for perfection

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 11** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) underscores that Borneo has its own history that includes culture, customs, trade and the close relations among Muslims.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered the *titah* at the Official Opening of the 12<sup>th</sup> Borneo International Islamic Conference (KAIB 12) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Borneo International Halal Showcase (BIHAS 2) 2019, which took place at the International Convention Centre.

His Majesty emphasised that it is important that relations between countries and territories in Borneo to be maintained to ensure mutual security and prosperity.

Thus, KAIB and BIHAS are both proofs that good relations can be formed at any time with the blessings of Allah the Almighty, whether in the name of Islamic relations or a nation, clan or ethnic group.

His Majesty stated, as Muslims, we are bound by the laws of Islam with respect to the specific consumption of items that are Halal, according to the interpretation of Islamic law.

Hence, the theme of the conference that combines 'knowledge and practice' acts as one that defines the uniqueness of

the *Ummah*. Knowledge cannot proceed without practice, while practice without any knowledge can cause harm. The importance of knowledge and practice is equally determined. Both need to co-exist for perfection.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were His Majesty's sons, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The KAIB 12 is organised by the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB), supported by Universiti Teknologi Mara Sarawak (UiTM) Malaysia.

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In the event, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti delivered the premier talk titled, 'Ilmu dan Amal Penentu Kebitaraan Ummah'.

KAIB 12 focuses on empowering a unique *ummah* with the main theme, 'Ilmu dan Amal Penentu Kebitaraan Ummah', 12 sub-theme discussions have been prepared covering social and political sciences, education, civilisation, manuscripts, *da'wah*, halal, *zakat* and *waqaf* or endowment, Islamic education pedagogy, co-curriculum, electronic media, sports, recreation and thinking.

Prior to leaving, His Majesty and other members of the royal family toured the BIHAS 2 exhibition.

This year's BIHAS gathered over 56 companies, entrepreneurs and halal product producers from Brunei Darussalam, Sabah, Sarawak and Kalimantan. The exhibition also promoted a number of products including food, drinks, cosmetics, pharmaceutical, fashion, textile, biotechnology and herbs.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* at the Official Opening of the 12<sup>th</sup> Borneo International Islamic Conference (KAIB 12) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Borneo International Halal Showcase (BIHAS 2).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam tours the BIHAS 2 exhibition (above and right).



His Majesty and Their Royal Highnesses tours the BIHAS 2 exhibition.



## Be proactive and develop competencies, says His Majesty

From front page

High Tea Reception with the students' representatives and viewed a Research Exhibition presented by Brunei Postgraduate Society (BPS) 2019/2020 at the Wellington Ballroom, before proceeding to the Grand Ballroom for the Get-Together Ceremony.

The President of the Brunei Students' Union in the United Kingdom and Eire, in his welcoming address, on behalf of all the students, among others presented the theme of this

year's event which is 'Progressive Students, Upholding the King's Vision' which is a commitment and determination of all the students to always be viable, creative, innovative and progressive in supporting and realising His Majesty's vision.

Their Majesties then proceeded to meet and greet more than 1,800 citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam who are in the United Kingdom and Eire, comprising of students, government officials as well as those on vacation.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam during the High Tea Reception with the students' representatives.



His Majesty in a group photo with the students.



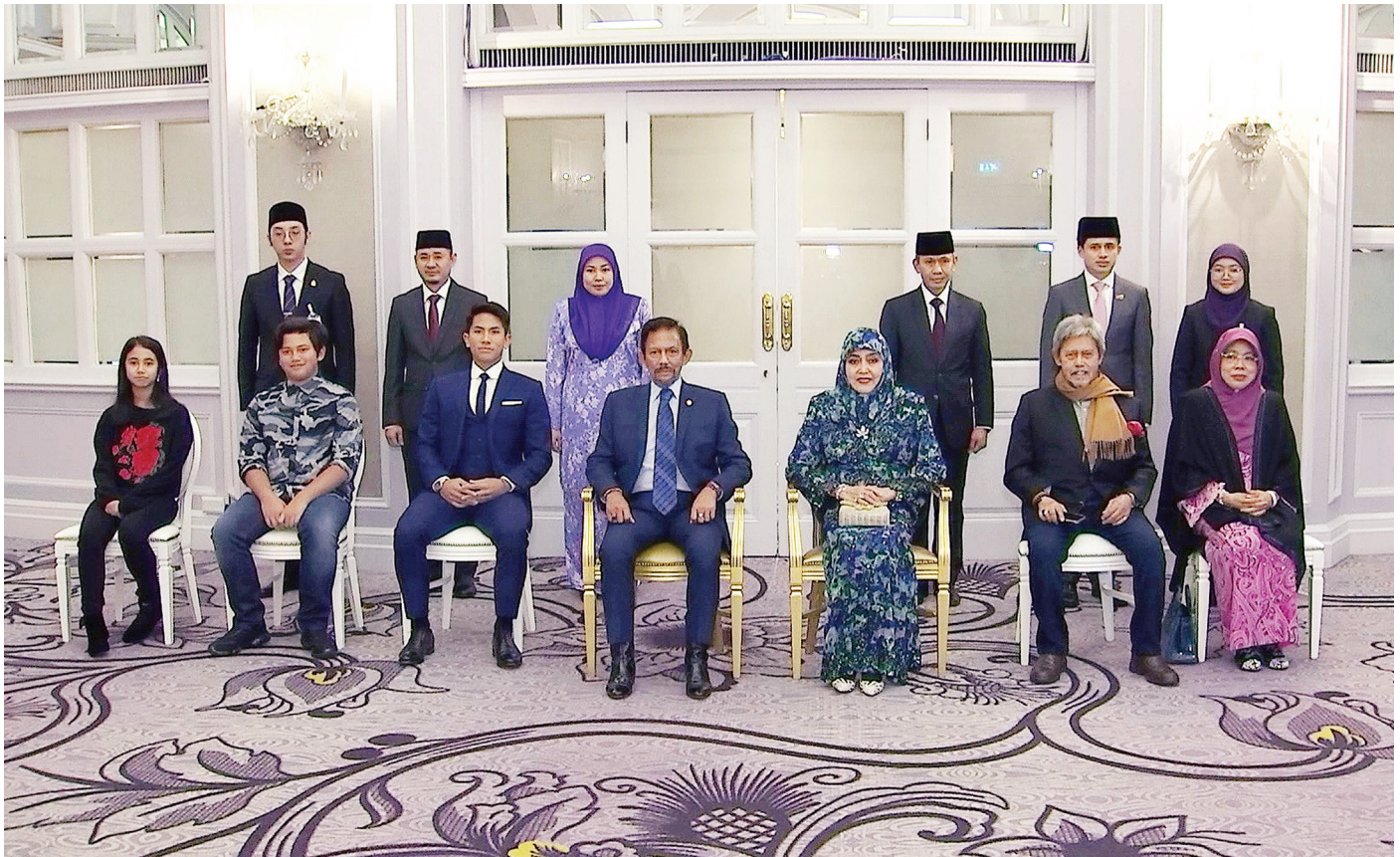
His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah at the event.



Their Majesties listen to a briefing on research by the Brunei Postgraduate Society (left and right).



His Majesty during the Get-Together Ceremony with Citizens and Residents of Brunei Darussalam in the United Kingdom and Eire (left and right).



Their Majesties; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah in a group photo.

# BLNG plays an important role in Brunei's economic development



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office delivers a *sabda* at BLNG's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 9** - Brunei LNG Sendirian Berhad (BLNG) plays an important role in supporting various current and future initiatives on developing Bruneians by supporting the investment in people development and ensuring a sustainable transfer of skills and knowledge for the locals.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office in his capacity as Chairman of BLNG in a *sabda* (royal speech) expressed his gratitude as 93 per cent of BLNG's current workforce comprised of local talent, which is highly significant to the aspiration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in developing locals in the oil and gas industry through the 'Bruneianisation Programme'.

His Royal Highness stated the matter at BLNG's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration which took place at Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Brunei.

On the commercial side, BLNG had successfully delivered a total of 267 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) efficiently to all customers since its operation 50 years ago in 1969, and today, 90 per cent of the volume produced has been delivered to Japan, which remains Brunei's largest client.

His Royal Highness also expressed his appreciation to the consortium of important Japanese buyers, namely JERA, Tokyo Gas and Osaka Gas on the trust given to BLNG, as well as more recent buyers from Shell LNG, Petronas LNG Limited (PLL) and Koch Supply and Trading SARL (Koch).

His Royal Highness then received a *pesambah* (souvenir) in the form of BLNG's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coffee Table Book and BLNG's liquefaction train model.

Before leaving, His Royal Highness received a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from LNG buyers from Japan including JERA, Osaka Gas and Tokyo Gas, followed by buyers from SLMT, Koch and PLL.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah receives a *pesambah* in the form of BLNG's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coffee Table Book and BLNG's liquefaction train model (left) and His Royal Highness in a group photo (below).



# Athletes' achievements in 2019 SEA Games show improvement

**CLARK, REPUBLIC OF PHILIPPINES, December 11** - The Brunei Darussalam contingent that participated in the 30<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games (30<sup>th</sup> SEA Games) became the most successful team ever assembled in an away SEA Games - taking home 13 medals: two gold, five silver and six bronze.

Brunei bagged its first gold medal in wushu through Mohammad Adi Salihin bin Roslan in the combined Men's Nandao and Men's Nangun event, while on the other hand, the national polo team brought Brunei's second gold in the final of Division B: 0-2 'low goals' category.

The gold medal won in the polo match was participated by His Royal Highness Prince Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.

Also participating in the team were Idris bin Sirat; Huzaimi bin Haji Mahari; Farid bin Abdullah; Colonel Haji Mohd. Huzaimi bin Pehin Datu Harimau Padang Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Husin; and Chief Inspector Pengiran Mohd. Khairul Alimin bin Pengiran Haji Mohamad.

Besides gold, the national polo team

also won bronze in Division A: 4-6 'high goal' category. Participating in the team were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar.

Division A: 4-6 'high goal' category were also joined by Huzaimi bin Haji Mahari; Muhamad Farid bin Abdullah; Lieutenant Colonel Haji Mohamad Huzaimi bin Pehin Datu Harimau Padang Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Husin; and Haji Abdul Azeez bin Pehin Orang Kaya Lela Pahlawan Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Mohd. Jaafar.

Three wushu silver medals were won by wushu athletes, Majdurano Joel Majallah Sain and Mohammad Safiee Shayferan bin Roslan in Men's Duijian; Basma Lachkar for Women's Taijiquan; and Hosea Wong Zheng Yu in Men's Taijiquan. Two bronze medals were also won by Basma Lachkar for Women's Taijiquan and Hosea Wong Zheng Yu in Men's Taijiquan.

While, two silver medals won by lawn bowl contingents were through Esmawandy binti Brahim and Hajah Amaliah binti Matali in the Women's Pairs, and in the

Men's Four category comprised Bahren bin Abdul Rahman; Mohd. Hazmi bin Haji Idris; Haji Amlu bin Haji Gafar; and Haji Osman bin Haji Yahya.

In pencak silat, Anisah Najihah binti Abdullah joined the country's list of podium finishers after winning bronze in the Women's Singles category. Muhd. Sufizan bin Mohd. Sofian, Karatedo athlete, also bagged bronze for Men's 67 kg Kumite category.

While, the national netball team, participated by Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah won the bronze medal.

Also in the team were Dayangku Khalisa binti Pengiran Abdul Rahman; Nur Hafizah binti Haji Abdul Sidek; Siti Marhayati binti Ahmad; Nur Ady Elzza Ezrenna binti Sofian; Siti Nurul Nazihah binti Awang Haji Hassan; Syafiqah Niqmatullah binti Amraan Nurafiqah @ Fatin Najlaa binti Samat; Nur Syuhaidah Fahriyana binti Haji Sukri; Nurul Ajeerah binti Abdullah; Zuraidah binti Haji Abdul Amit; and Siti Norsaihah binti Mohammad Adi Najmi.



Brunei Darussalam's contingent during the parade at the closing ceremony of the 30<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games (30<sup>th</sup> SEA Games).

# LegCo Speaker receives courtesy calls

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 9** - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) received a goodwill visit from Yang Berhormat Dato' Ngeh Koo Ham, Yang Dipertua Dewan Negeri Perak.

Yang Dipertua Dewan Negeri Perak led the 11-member delegation comprising of Dewan Undangan Negeri Perak members and Perintah Tetap Negeri Perak Committee.

Through the goodwill visit, it further strengthened the relations of both parties with discussion on matters of mutual interest and took the opportunity to learn matters that can become the best practices.

After the courtesy call, a meeting was held to discuss the administration and system of the Privy Council, the Council of Cabinet Ministers and the Legislative Council. Information on the Legislative Council's technology system and Hansard-full official report of the Legislative Council were also highlighted.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council receives goodwill visit from Yang Berhormat Dato' Ngeh Koo Ham, Yang Dipertua Dewan Negeri Perak.

The delegation had the opportunity to take a closer look at the Legislative Council's conference hall, the venue for the Legislative Council meetings.

On December 2, Yang Berhormat received a courtesy call from His Excellency Vladimir Borisovich Goncharenko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam.

During the courtesy call, both sides exchanged views and discussed matters of mutual interest particularly in the field of parliamentary cooperation. Both sides also expressed contentment with the exchanges and visits derived from the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Brunei Darussalam Legislative Council and the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on February 19.

The courtesy call marked the long-standing relationship and cooperation between the two countries.



The Speaker of the Legislative Council receives a courtesy call from His Excellency Vladimir Borisovich Goncharenko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam.

## Brunei to export Muskmelon to China

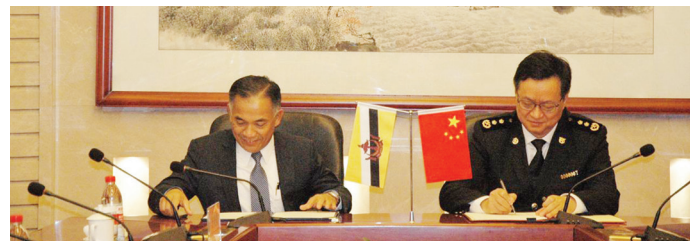
From front page

During the visit, a bilateral meeting was held with His Excellency Dr. Zhang Jiwen to discuss obtaining the protocol for the export of agriculture products to the People's Republic of China.

The approval and acceptance from the People's Republic of China for Brunei Darussalam to export the said products, will give positive impact and significance to the country's fruit, agriculture and aquaculture industries by penetrating and accessing the market in the People's Republic of China. At the same time, it will contribute to the increase in agriculture and fishery products and enhance the Gross Domestic Product.

This will directly impact local producers of said industries. Muskmelon output by Gropoint is expected to increase from 600 metric tonnes a year to 1,200 metric tonnes a year. Meanwhile, meat product output by PDS Sendirian Berhad that produces approximately 1,300 metric tonnes is expected to rise exponentially in the next year. Aquaculture output from aquaculture companies is also expected to grow from 16,000 metric tonnes to 20,000 metric tonnes annually.

While in Beijing, the Minister and delegation also held a bilateral



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong and His Excellency Dr. Zhang Jiwen during the Protocol Signing Ceremony.

meeting with His Excellency Mr. Yu Xinrong, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, People's Republic of China.

Among the matters discussed were the fields of cooperation that have the potential to be explored by both countries, including in the field of hybrid paddy planting technology and modern agriculture technologies.

The Brunei delegation had the opportunity to visit Chunbo, J.D.com, National Experiment Station for Precision Agriculture and On Site Display of Intelligent Equipment Laboratories, Futong China Agricultural University, Jingshen Seafood Market and Wecook to take a closer look at agriculture technology development.

## Brunei – Thailand enjoy a close relationship

Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence and spouse, Datin Hajah Kalshom bin Haji Suhaili with Her Excellency Wanthane Vipunwongsakul, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Brunei Darussalam at the Reception Ceremony.



Thailand Father's Day

5 December 2019

**JERUDONG, December 5** - Brunei and Thailand have close cooperation in many areas, where both countries have enjoyed a close and cordial relationship, anchored by royal families' ties, political and economic cooperation, as well as people-to-people.

The matter was stated by Her Excellency Wanthane Vipunwongsakul, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Brunei Darussalam, during a Reception Ceremony in conjunction with the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand. The ceremony took place at Indera Samudra Grand Hall, The Empire Brunei.

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and

Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence and spouse, Datin Hajah Kalshom bin Haji Suhaili.

Her Excellency added, in commemorating the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Brunei and Thailand, the Royal Thai Embassy in Brunei Darussalam has organised events such as Thailand Grand Fair, launching of 'Guidebook of Thai Restaurants in Brunei Darussalam' book, and the launching of Sawasdee Club's Facebook page.



## Second Minister of Defence receives courtesy call from US Commander

Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence and Major General Jonathan P. Braga, Commander Special Operations Command, Pacific, United States of America during a courtesy call.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 10** - Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence received a courtesy call from Major General Jonathan P. Braga, Commander Special Operations Command, Pacific, United States of America. The courtesy call was held at the Ministry of Defence.

During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed the friendly and robust bilateral cooperation in the area of defence and military cooperation.

Both sides are also satisfied with the ongoing cooperation in

military-related activities, notably with 25<sup>th</sup> Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Exercise, which was held from October 22 to 31, as well as other training opportunities for the military services.

Major General Jonathan P. Braga assumed command of the Special Operations Command Pacific (SOCPAC) on July 27, 2018.

Brunei Darussalam and the United States of America established its defence relations through the Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation signed on November 29, 1994.

## Commander of RBLF conferred with Meritorious Service Medal

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, December 6** - Brigadier General Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Khairul Hamed bin Awang Haji Lampoh, Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF) was conferred Singapore's Prestigious Military Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (Military) by Her Excellency Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore.

Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Defence of the Republic of Singapore, presented the award to the Commander of RBLF that took place at the Ministry of Defence, Republic of Singapore.

The Commander of RBLF received the award for his role in enhancing the defence relations between RBLF and the Singapore Army. Under his leadership, the bilateral military cooperation between both armed forces has strengthened through various bilateral interactions such as official visits, staff talks, exercises and courses which further enhanced the professional development of personnel from both armed forces.

The bilateral exercises, Exercise Maju Bersama and Exercise Rintis Bersama, continue to underpin the long-standing defence relationship between both armies.



Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Defence of the Republic of Singapore presents Meritorious Service Medal (Military) to Brigadier General Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Khairul Hamed bin Awang Haji Lampoh, Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Force.

Prior to the investiture ceremony, the Commander of RBLF made courtesy calls to Dr. Ng Eng Hen and Major General Goh Si Hou, Chief of Army, Singapore Army.

## Brunei - Viet Nam defence cooperation grow steadily

**HANOI, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, December 21** - Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence is currently in Hanoi to attend the commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the All-People Defence Day and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Viet Nam People's Army (VPA) upon the invitation of His Excellency General Ngo Xuan Lich, Minister of National Defence, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

On December 20, upon arrival, the Second Minister of Defence attended a joint call on His Excellency Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, together with other invited Ministers of Defence from other countries at the Chancellery of Prime Minister. The Minister also attended a Commemoration Banquet hosted by the Minister of National Defence, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The highlight of the event was held at the Ministry of Defence of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam where all the dignitaries were accorded the Guard of Honour followed by a static display of the current capabilities of the VPA. This was followed by addresses of His Excellency Nguyen Xuan Phuc and His Excellency General Ngo Xuan Lich and a performance entitled 'Desire for Peace'.

Since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Some Defence Fields in November 2005, defence cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Viet Nam has grown steadily through various interactions such as exchange of visits; regional military exercises; military and defence related regional meetings; workshops; trainings and courses.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence during the joint call on His Excellency Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.



The Second Minister of Defence in a group photo with defence ministers at the event.



## One Health to combat AMR



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health speaks at the World Antibiotic Awareness Week Symposium 2019.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 7** - Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a global threat to public health, and at least 700,000 people die each year due to drug-resistant diseases, including 230,000 people from multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

The matter was shared by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health during the 'World Antibiotic Awareness Week Symposium 2019', held at the Dewan Al-'Afiah, Ministry of Health.

The Minister further explained that currently, international

agencies representing the three-party cooperation between the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) have agreed on 'One Health' to combat AMR.

In December 2018, the Brunei Darussalam Antimicrobial Resistance Committee (BDAMRC), a multi-sectoral committee comprising the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, was formed and has successfully formulated the Brunei Darussalam Antimicrobial Resistance National Action Plan 2019-2023, to tackle the antimicrobial resistance issue.

The Minister said the national action plan outlines four broad, yet interlinked objective strategies, namely Awareness and Education; Surveillance and Research; Prevention and Control of Infections; and appropriate use of antimicrobials.

The event also saw the launching of three books entitled, 'Brunei Darussalam Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan'; 'National Best Practice Guidance for Good Antibiotic Prescribing Practice (GAPP)'; and 'Infection Control and Risk Assessment (ICRA) Procedure'.

With the theme, 'Stewards for the Future: Stop overuse and misuse of antibiotics', the World Antibiotic Awareness Week this year aim to strengthen the understanding of the antimicrobial resistance among health professionals and to promote the good and safe antibiotic practice.

## Qatar hosts National Day reception

**JERUDONG, December 9** - The Embassy of the State of Qatar in Brunei Darussalam hosted a reception in conjunction with Qatar's National Day anniversary at the Indera Samudra Grand Hall, The Empire Brunei.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health attended the event as a representative of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The event began with the singing of the national anthems of both countries followed by cake-cutting ceremony by the Minister of Health; His Excellency Jassim Ali Abdullah Al Obaidli, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam; Mr. Mahmood Khamis Mohamed Al-Hinai, Charge d'Affaires at the Sultanate of Oman Embassy in Brunei Darussalam; and Mr. Ali Al-Astad, Charge d'Affaires at the State of Kuwait Embassy in Brunei Darussalam.

The state of Qatar celebrates its National Day every December 18 with the slogan, 'Al Maali Kaydah', which means 'the path of excellence is difficult', inspired by a



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health during the cake-cutting ceremony together with His Excellency Jassim Ali Abdullah Al Obaidli, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam; Mr. Mahmood Khamis Mohamed Al-Hinai, Charge d'Affaires at the Sultanate of Oman Embassy in Brunei Darussalam; and Mr. Ali Al-Astad, Charge d'Affaires at the State of Kuwait Embassy in Brunei Darussalam.

poem by the Qatari founder. Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the State of Qatar have been established

since October 2, 1991 and have seen a steady growth on the genuine friendship and fraternity.

## Conducive surrounding in achieving a high quality of life

**ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, December 17** - The 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers was held from December 16 to 17 in Abu Dhabi.

Representing Brunei Darussalam at the meeting was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers with the theme, 'Quality of Life' was chaired by Yang Berhormat Abdul Rahman bin Mohammed Al Owais, Minister of Health and Prevention of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Brunei Darussalam was appointed as Deputy Chairman of the conference.

During the plenary session, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Health in his speech welcomed the conference's theme which focuses on 'Quality of Life' as explained in Brunei Vision 2035, in upholding the national commitment towards 'Health for All'.

Brunei Darussalam is committed to driving forward the agenda of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), as well as the provision of high-quality health services which fulfils the needs of society at all levels.

The Minister then talked about the quality of life indicators, which should not only be seen from insufficient or limited health but should instead take into account the well-being of life including the capability for involvement in society. In this regard, the provision of a conducive surrounding and promoting full social involvement where the provision of UHC is one of the pillars in achieving a high quality of life.

However, there are challenges in achieving UHC, including infrastructure, private expenditure on treatment, shortage of human resources and quality of medicine.

Thus, the Minister explained, in its efforts to further and enhance the achievement of UHC and the provision of comprehensive and high-quality health services, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has held a comprehensive assessment on the national health strategies resulting in a five years Health Strategic Plan which was launched recently.

He disclosed the key methods that have been and are being implemented in developing the UHC agenda, especially in strengthening basic health care services including investment in health centres, maternity and paediatric health clinics and mobile clinics, as well as increasing health workforce capacity.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health during bilateral meeting with Yang Berhormat Dr. Terawan Agus Putranto, Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia.

In addressing the growing problem of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the MoH has established the Multisectoral Task Force for Health with relevant sector involvement. The Task Force reviews the Brunei Darussalam National Multisectoral Action Plan on Prevention and Control of NCDs (BruMap NCD) 2013-2018 and the National Health Screening Programme was launched this year, where screening tests for cardiovascular, diabetes, breast cancer, cervical cancer and colon cancer are now available at health centres in collaboration with the Pantai Jerudong Specialist Centre (PJSC).

The MoH has also implemented several initiatives that include the health of senior citizens and addresses mental health including community-based services.

At the conference, member countries unanimously agreed to adopt five resolutions on the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (SHPA) 2014-2023 and Strengthening Health Cooperation; Healthy Lifestyle, Prevention and Control of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases, and Health Emergencies and Disasters; Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition; Self-Reliance in Supply and Production of Medicines, Vaccines and Medical Technologies; and Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy.

While in Abu Dhabi, the Minister held a bilateral meeting with Yang Berhormat Dr. Terawan Agus Putranto, Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia; and Yang Berhormat Abdulla Ameen, Minister of Health of the Republic of Maldives, specifically to discuss and exchange views on health sector development in their respective countries as well as for the implementation of health cooperation between the two countries.

## Brunei – Singapore ink Atlantic Salmon project

**JERUDONG, December 10** - The Atlantic Salmon breeding project is expected to generate 145 employment opportunities and will supply the fish products domestically and regionally, such as fish fillets and smoked salmon.

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Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy with Mr. Karim Ghannam, Chief Executive Officer, 8F Asset Management Pte Ltd during the exchange of documents.



## TVET system must be in line with the changes



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education delivers his speech at the UK Education Business Forum held at the Rizqun International Hotel.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 3** - British High Commission in Brunei Darussalam partnered with Training Gateway with support from the Ministry of Education hosted its first-ever UK Education Business Forum, which was held at the Rizqun International Hotel.

Attending the event as the guest of honour was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education.

In line with the theme, 'Continuous Professional Development', the forum aims to identify opportunities to strike more Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) partnerships, in support of Brunei Vision 2035 to develop priority sectors including energy, development, marine, ICT, hospitality and tourism.

"Amid of the Fourth Industrial Revolution,

TVET systems had to adapt to the rapid changes in the workplace as the new economy required workers to gain knowledge and skills in cloud computing, big data analytics, robotics, automation and the Internet of Things (IoT) to perform tasks more effectively".

"The crucial role of TVET in the provision of skilled manpower needed by industries, there is an increasing focus on skills development which not only prepares youth for the labour market but also those already in the market," said the Minister.

According to the prediction made by the World Economic Forum, 35 per cent of core skills will change in the next five years, with different degrees of intensity across every sector.

The key to surviving in the Fourth Industrial Revolution is the ability to become

lifelong learners or to face the risk to become an irrelevant workforce.

TVET systems need to adapt and constantly innovate as industrial, and the digital transformations will affect not only the economy but also peoples' way of life, work and learn.

The Minister also shared that the Ministry of Education through its five-year strategic plan, placed a strong emphasis on strengthening Brunei's core education, especially in uplifting the standard of literacy and numeracy skills upon completion of their basic education.

Earlier, His Excellency Richard Lindsay, British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam in his remark among others shared that the United Kingdom (UK), has a long history of TVET which extends back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The UK is unique in having an integrated education framework from level 1 to 8 which includes both academic and vocational education and training pathways.

According to His Excellency, UK has developed a world-leading model of Degree and Graduate Apprenticeships, which are developed in partnerships with employers, higher education colleges and universities.

His Excellency hoped that the forum would prove to be beneficial and useful for both Brunei and UK companies, and become a real outcome for UK companies to support Brunei Vision 2035.

The forum featured talks titled, 'The Future of Work' delivered by experts from Brunei Shell Petroleum, Institute of Brunei Technical Education and Pearson Asia.

## Brunei – Singapore ink Atlantic Salmon project

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In this regard, the Strategic Development Capital Fund, Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the 8F Asset Management Pte Ltd, a private equity fund management company from the Republic of Singapore. The signing ceremony was held at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Brunei.

The MoU was signed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy, on behalf of Strategic Development Capital Fund, MoFE, meanwhile Mr. Karim Ghannam, Chief Executive Officer, signed

on behalf of 8F Asset Management Pte Ltd.

The MoU formalises the intention to invest in a land-based farming facility for Atlantic Salmon, using the 'Recirculating Aquaculture System' (RAS), with the capacity of 10,000 tonnes per annum.

The facility management will be managed by Pure Salmon Pte Ltd, a global company for 8F's investments. It will provide a wide range of expertise in Atlantic Salmon including hatchery, production, processing, purchasing, quality assurance, distribution and brand management.

## State Mufti receives goodwill visits

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 12** - Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti received a goodwill visit from delegates of the Indonesian Council of Ulama, led by Kh. Dr. Abdusshomad Bukhari, Head of Indonesian Council of Ulama (Propagation and Community Development). The goodwill visit was held at Darulifta Brunei Darussalam, State Mufti Office.

The visit was made as part of their series of visits to Southeast Asia, aimed at enhancing understanding of Islamic propagation and modernisation in this region.

In the afternoon, the State Mufti also received a goodwill visit from 58 committee members of Islamic Council of Pattani Province from Southern Thailand, led by Dr. Haji Abdul Rahman bin Daud, President of the Islamic Council of Pattani Province.

The Thailand delegation was briefed on the history, functions and roles of the State Mufti's Office and Fatwa affairs. They also visited the Islamic Library and Book Store at the State Mufti's Office.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti with the delegates of the Indonesian Council of Ulama (Propagation and Community Development).

## Annual Hajj Management Meeting 1441H

**MAKKAH, SAUDI ARABIA, December 18** - The Annual Hajj Management Meeting for 1441 Hijrah was held between Brunei Darussalam's Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) and Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on December 16, at the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in Makkah Al-Mukarramah.

Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, led the delegation on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the meeting.

The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the meeting, was led by Dr. Abdul Fattah bin Sulaiman Mashat, Deputy Minister of Hajj and Umrah.

Deputy Minister of Hajj and Umrah in his speech expressed his happiness and appreciation to officers of the Brunei Darussalam Hajj Management Office, Administration and Medical, for their efforts in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.

He also praised the management of both offices for being able to maintain excellent hajj management and administration so that the Brunei Darussalam hajj pilgrims can carry out the hajj properly.

He added that the Brunei Darussalam hajj pilgrims are disciplined and always adheres to the regulations stipulated



Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs of Brunei Darussalam together with Dr. Abdul Fattah bin Sulaiman Mashat, Deputy Minister of Hajj and Umrah, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the Annual Hajj Management Meeting for 1441 Hijrah.

by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and focused fully on the implementation of the hajj manasik. They are also able to maintain the same performance in the past hajj season.

The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and relevant agencies are always ready to assist all hajj pilgrims including those from Brunei Darussalam.

The Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs expressed appreciation and happiness as well as thanks and congratulations to the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their excellent management and

organisation as well as hospitality given to the country's hajj pilgrims throughout the past hajj season.

He also welcomed the high commitment of the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in holding continuous discussions on the hajj management affairs with MoRA solely for the safety, welfare and comfort of the Brunei Darussalam's hajj pilgrims every hajj season.

After the meeting, the Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs and the Deputy Minister of Hajj and Umrah, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia signed an agreement as agreed during the meeting.

## RTAF's Commander-in-Chief receives Honorary Pilot Wing

**RIMBA, December 19** - With the consent of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Air Chief Marshal Maanat Wongwat, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) has been awarded the Royal Brunei Air Force's Honorary Pilot Wing in appreciation of his services in fostering closer relations between the Royal Brunei Air Force and RTAF.

The honorary award was presented by Brigadier General (U) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sahat, Acting Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

Air Chief Marshal Maanat Wongwat also paid a courtesy call on Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Acting Minister of Defence.

Both sides affirmed the friendly relations between the two countries and acknowledged various areas of bilateral defence and military cooperation, as well as multilateral initiatives within the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus).

Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Acting Minister of Defence and Air Chief Marshal Maanat Wongwat in a group photo during the courtesy call.



Brigadier General (U) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sahat, Acting Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) presents the Royal Brunei Air Force's Honorary Pilot Wing to Air Chief Marshal Maanat Wongwat, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force.



## Brunei ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> among ASEAN in PISA 2018

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 3** - Brunei Darussalam is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in all domains of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2018 amongst the participating ASEAN member states.

Overall, Brunei Darussalam ranked 60<sup>th</sup> for Reading, 51<sup>st</sup> for Mathematics and 50<sup>th</sup> for Science.

The rankings derived from the results of PISA 2018 for the 79 participating countries and economies released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris today.

The matter was announced by the Ministry of Education during the Media Conference on Brunei Darussalam's achievement in the PISA 2018.

Brunei Darussalam participated in PISA 2018 for the very first time in the comparative international large-scale research study, with a sample of 600,000 students representing 32 million 15 year-old.

In Brunei Darussalam, the national census, totalling 6,828 students across 55 secondary schools participated in this study, which is one of the highest coverage in PISA. In accordance with the criteria of the assessment, the medium of instruction in schools determines the language of assessment. Therefore, Brunei Darussalam is one of the only three ASEAN countries that administered the study in the English Language.

The analysis found a good variation

of the index of Economic, Social and Cultural Status (ESCS) both within and between Brunei's schools, which means that despite different individual social-economic statuses, all students have good access to schools. Both boys and girls are almost equally represented in all of the schools, with girls performing better than the boys in all three domains.

Two findings from the analysis on equity in education and the students' well-being have been highlighted. First, the majority of Brunei's students are generally motivated to learn and do expect to go on to tertiary education. Second, it was indicated that given the right learning environment in schools, the students could perform much better and have the potential to succeed in their future careers.

## Bruneian – Australian soldiers, train on Exercise Mallee Bull

**BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA, December 6** - Australian and Bruneian soldiers have trained in Australia on Exercise Mallee Bull for the first time in over 10 years, enhancing the strong relationship between the two nations and improving their ability to work together.

More than 60 soldiers from the Australian Army's 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and 55 soldiers from the Royal Brunei Land Forces took part in the exercise at Brisbane's Gallipoli Barracks.

The two-week exercise focused on integrating training in urban environments with mechanised vehicles and reconnaissance. Soldiers practised the integration of Australian and Bruneian military equipment, including the Australian M113AS4 Armoured Personnel Carriers and Bruneian motorcycles and unmanned aerial vehicles to complete training missions.

Brigadier Andrew Hocking, 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander said that the Exercise Mallee Bull has been mutually beneficial for both nations, with both bondings over the past two weeks and learning a lot from each other.

"They've shared knowledge and tactics to improve key skills, overcome the challenges of operating with soldiers from different militaries and both strengthened



Personnel from the Royal Brunei Land Forces and the Australian Army's 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment during the Exercise Mallee Bull.

their ability to work with one another on future operations or exercises," Brigadier Hocking said.

"The exercise has been a great opportunity to build strong, long-term relationships with our Bruneian counterparts to improve security, stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific Region. Brunei is one of Australia's valued partners in regional counter-terrorism and exercises between our two nations contribute to strengthening our interoperability across a range of

operational scenarios."

Exercise Mallee Bull is one of several bilateral defence exercises between Australia and Brunei, with other exercises involving the Navy and Special Forces.

Exercise Mallee Bull also coincided with the annual Australian-Brunei Joint Defence Working Committee in Brisbane with delegates from both nations visiting troops and viewing training at Gallipoli Barracks as part of the programme.

## Oman Brunei Investment Company increases its capital

**MUSCAT, December 9** - The State General Reserve Fund (SGRF) of the Sultanate of Oman and Brunei Investment Agency (BIA) have agreed to increase the capital of Oman Brunei Investment Company (OBIC) by another USD 100 million. Thus, bringing the total capital of the company to USD 200 million.

The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the 19<sup>th</sup> Bilateral Consultative Meeting (BCM) between the Sultanate of Oman and Brunei Darussalam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Muscat.

His Excellency Abdulsalam Mohammed Al Murshidi, Executive President of SGRF signed on behalf of SGRF, while Mr. Sofian Mohammad Jani, Acting Managing Director of BIA and Chairman of OBIC, signed on behalf of BIA.

The signing ceremony was attended and witnessed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs; His Excellency

Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Al-Busaidi, Secretary-General of Oman's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashil Al Maskari, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam; and His Excellency Haji Sulaini bin Haji Said, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman.

Commenting on the signing of the agreement, His Excellency Abdulsalam Mohammed Al Murshidi said: "OBIC has invested in nine projects in the Sultanate of Oman since its establishment ten years ago, among the most important of these projects are Kempinski Hotel, located Al Mouj-Muscat, the European Hospital currently being built in Al Ghubra, and the desalination plant in Sohar and other projects, the company has successfully exited three investments so far, making good profits in all of them. This year we are pleased that OBIC has acquired a 50 per cent share of Golden Corporation Sdn. Bhd. (GC), a company that specialises in fish farming, in addition

to providing high-quality seafood products and is based in Brunei Darussalam. a was OBIC first investment in Brunei."

On the other hand, Mr. Sofian Mohammad Jani said: "We are pleased with the cooperation between SGRF and BIA. The signing of the agreement is the icing on the cake for Oman-Brunei bilateral cooperation in the field of investment and related fields. Hence, OBIC with its diversified portfolio of investments in many sectors can be viewed as a shining example of joint investments between the Sovereign Funds in both countries."

Mr. Sofian also applauded OBIC's successful investments over the past decade and expressed optimism that the company will continue making the most of business opportunities in the two countries' local markets, to further boost the economic development in Oman and Brunei and contribute to the two friendly countries economic diversification plans.

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OBIC is a private equity company jointly capitalised by SGRF of Oman (50 per cent) and BIA (50 per cent).

OBIC was established in the year 2009, after the two governments of the Sultanate of Oman and Brunei Darussalam signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a Joint Investment Fund, during the visit of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman,

in the same year. OBIC invests in private equity of high-growing sectors through acquisition, or by investing in existing companies or starting new projects.

OBIC's shareholders have injected capital in line with the fund's investment deployment over the year, with the company's cumulative amounting USD 100 million. Majority of these funds were deployed between 2014 and 2018. In order to enhance its portfolio and increase its investment base, OBIC shareholders approved to increase authorised capital by USD 100

million, so that the total authorised capital of the company will increase to USD 200 million.

As all of OBIC's investment has been in the Sultanate of Oman so far, OBIC management aspiration is to invest part of this additional capital in the Brunei Darussalam, with suitable investment opportunities that align with the fund's strategy. OBIC also intends to explore new sectors and market segments in both countries with education, agriculture, food and service identified as the target.



His Excellency Abdulsalam Mohammed Al Murshidi, Executive President of the State General Reserve Fund SGRF and Mr. Sofian Mohammad Jani, Acting Managing Director of Brunei Investment Agency and Chairman of Oman Brunei Investment Company during the signing ceremony.

## Butra Heilderberg ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> at AMA

**BANGKOK, December 18** - Brunei Darussalam marked another significant milestone after being represented by Butra Heilderberg Sdn. Bhd. at the prestigious 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Mineral Award (AMA), held in collaboration and support of the ASEAN Mineral Cooperation Action Plan (AMCAP).

The event was held at Pullman Hotel, Bangkok in conjunction with the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting (ASOMM), 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting+3 (ASOMM+3) from December 11 to 13 and was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Development.

A total of six categories were contested, comprising of Metallic/Non-Metallic Mining, Metallic/Non-Metallic Mining Processing and Metallic/Non-Metallic Mining Distribution.

Out of the all companies across ASEAN member states that participated, only 14 companies were shortlisted, vying for first places and runner ups in each category.

Butra Heilderberg Sdn. Bhd. was awarded second place under the Non-Mineral



Butra Heilderberg Sdn. Bhd. ranked second at the prestigious 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Mineral Award.

Mining Distribution category. Participation in the competition showed Brunei Darussalam's commitment towards the ASEAN agenda, particularly in the minerals sector.

The winners were awarded during the Gala Night Dinner on December 13, in conjunction with the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Mineral (AMMin).