



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

newsletter

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National Al-Qur'an Reading Competition For Adults 1433 Hijrah/2012 Masihi HM: Al-Qur'an as guidance for human perfection

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 3 - The Al-Qur'an should not merely be read but its teachings must be followed. Al-Qur'an is a remedy and cure for all diseases.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a *khutbah* (royal speech) at the closing ceremony of the National Al-Qur'an Reading Competition For Adults 1433 Hijrah/2012 Masihi at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

His Majesty added that Allah will raise the status of Muslims if they truly hold and practice Al-Qur'an. The only way for Muslims to reclaim the past glory of their era is by making Al-Qur'an as their guide and a complete way of life.

From physical development aspect, His Majesty said that the Al-Qur'an does not hinder Muslims from physical development, provided they do not overstep the boundary of the Islamic law. Physical developments in Islam, apart from generating prosperity, also maintaining well-being and impeding any damage or destruction on the face of the earth, consistent with a reminder by Allah in *Surah Ar-Rum* which states, "*Mischief has appeared throughout the land and sea by (reason of) what the hands of people have earned.*"

In regards of the competition's theme, His Majesty described the theme '*Al-Qur'an Asas Kesempurnaan Insan*' or '*Al-Qur'an Guidance For Human Perfection*' as most appropriate. Whoever adheres to its teachings would surely obtain well-being and happiness, while those who do the contrary would surely be disappointed and ruined.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents the challenge trophy to the champion of the male reader's category, Awangku Muhammad Adibul Amin bin Pengiran Haji Marjuki.

prizes to the winners of the competition.

This year's champion for male reader's category is Awangku Muhammad Adibul Amin bin Pengiran Haji Marjuki. Meanwhile, Dayang Hajah Nurfaezah binti Haji Emran is the champion for the female reader's category. Both winners received a challenge trophy, cash prize of \$7,000, another trophy and a certificate of participation.

The champions will represent Brunei Darussalam at the International Al-Qur'an Reading Competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Brunei - Malaysia: Bridge construction works commence

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 10 - Construction of a bridge across Sungai Pandaruan, Sarawak, Malaysia to the Temburong District under a joint-venture between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia costing \$10 million is expected to be completed in August next year.

Hence, a ground-breaking ceremony for the project was held at the site. This marked the beginning of construction works for the bridge.

Brunei Darussalam's representative at the ceremony was Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Alaihuddin; while his counterpart was Yang Berbahagia Datuk Himmat Singh, Chief Secretary of Malaysia's Ministry of Public Works.

The project was sealed on September 12, 2011. Construction works on the 189-metre long and 14-metre wide pre-cast

concrete bridge with double two-way lanes will take 15 months to complete.

Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia wish to complete the Sungai Pandaruan bridge construction project before the ASEAN Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan in November next year. Dato Paduka Haji Awang Alaihuddin added that the building of the bridge will become a success symbol of close bilateral cooperation and friendship between the two neighbouring ASEAN countries.

The bridge is vital as 'machine link' for Pan Borneo and the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP EAGA) where it has been identified as one of the places to have 'machine link' in connecting the BIMP-EAGA and Pan Borneo.



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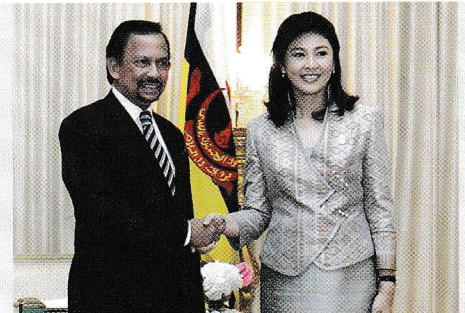
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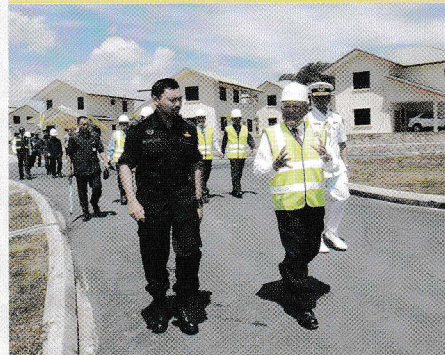
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7 HM: Al-Qur'an as guidance for human perfection



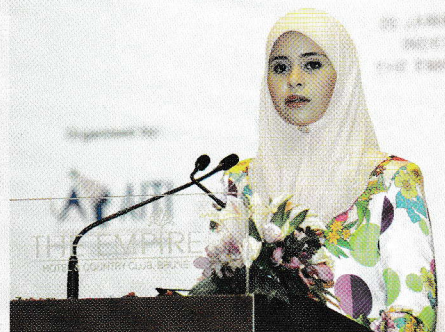
9 His Majesty on official visit to Thailand



10 Deputy Sultan visits National Development Plan projects



11 RBAF celebrates 51st Anniversary



13 ICT, a key driver for development



14 Olympic Day 2012



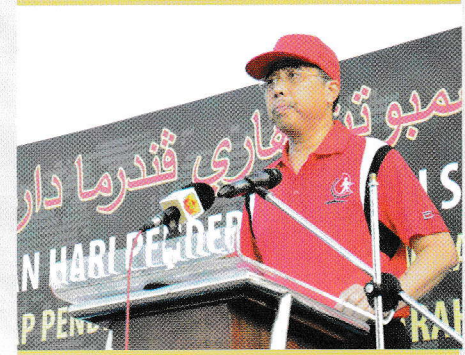
15 First Hybrid Rice 'TITIH' launched



17 Museum's role needs to intensified



18 Sustainable development, one of country's goals



19 World Blood Donor Day

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



- ❶ His Excellency Joseph K. H. Koh, out-going High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam on May 12.
- ❷ His Excellency Pham Binh Man, out-going Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam on May 12.
- ❸ The Chief Minister of Pahang, Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato' Sri Diraja Haji Adnan bin Haji Yaakob on June 7.
- ❹ The Speaker of the House of Senate of Malaysia, The Honourable Senator Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang on June 19.
- ❺ His Excellency General Tanasak Patimapragorn, Chief of Defence Force of the Royal Thai Armed Forces on June 20.
- ❻ Mr. Andrew J. Shapiro, Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, State Department, United States of America on June 21.
- ❼ The Honourable Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister of Health of Malaysia on June 26.
- ❽ Her Excellency Dr. Fatemeh Bodaghi, Vice President for Legal Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on June 26.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on June 25 presented diplomatic credentials at the Istana Nurul Iman for:



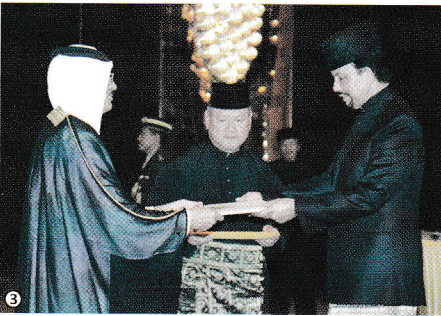
- ❶ His Excellency Haji Haini bin Haji Hashim, newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Federation of Russia.
- ❷ His Excellency Haji Mahamud bin Haji Ahmad, newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Japan.
- ❸ His Excellency Shaikh Haji Fadilah bin Shaikh Haji Ahmad, newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

PHOTOS: AZMAH HAJI AHAD



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on June 25 received letters of appointment at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

- ❶ His Excellency Major General (Rtd.) Muhammad Ijaz Hussain Awan, newly-appointed High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❷ His Excellency Saleh Mohammed Al-Nasef, newly-appointed Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❸ His Excellency Marcel Gaumond, newly-appointed High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❹ His Excellency Jaya Ratnam, newly-appointed High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam.



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

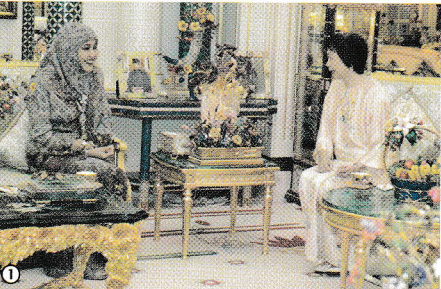


PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

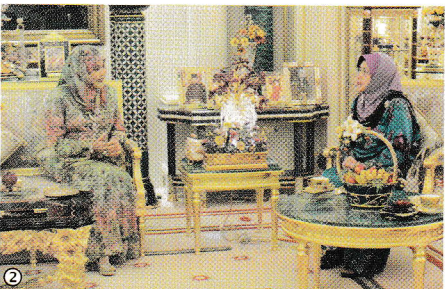


PHOTO: AK. AMRULIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

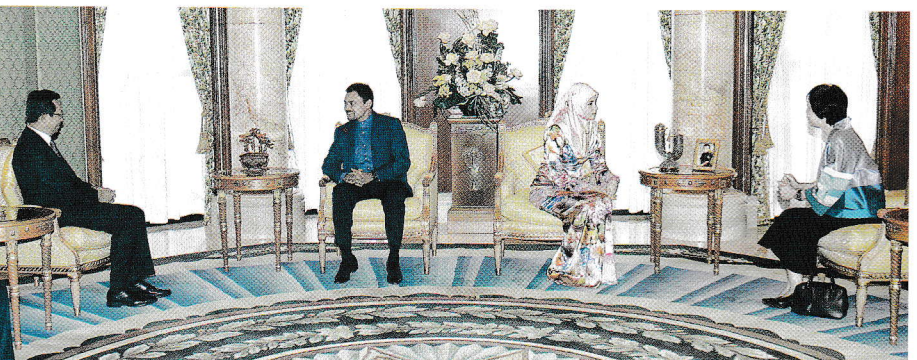


PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



- ❶ The spouse of the out-going High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam, Madam Peifen Koh on May 10.
- ❷ The Honourable Puan Sri Sharifah Rugayah Syed Jaffar, spouse of The Speaker of the House of Senate of Malaysia, the Honourable Senator Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang on June 19.
- ❸ Mrs. Penlaksana Patimapragorn, spouse of the Chief of Defence Force of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, His Excellency General Tanasak Patimapragorn on June 20.
- ❹ Datin Zaitun binti Mohiddin, spouse of newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Federation of Russia, His Excellency Awang Haji Haini bin Haji Hashim; Dayang Hajah Hadijah binti Haji Md. Idris, spouse of newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Japan, His Excellency Awang Haji Mahamud bin Haji Ahmad; and Tengku Syarifah Robaini Hussein Assagaf, spouse of the newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Shaikh Haji Fadilah bin Shaikh Haji Ahmad on June 28.

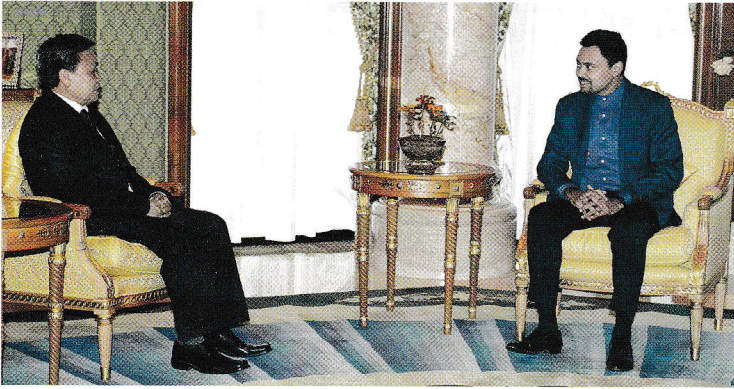
PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Deputy Sultan and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezaan from the out-going High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Joseph K. H. Koh and spouse, Madam Peifen Koh on May 21.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Deputy Sultan received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezaan from:

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



- The out-going Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Pham Binh Man on May 21.
- The newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Federation of Russia, His Excellency Haji Haini bin Haji Hashim, on June 30.
- The newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Japan, His Excellency Haji Mahamud bin Haji Ahmad, on June 30.

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



HM sends condolences messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send a message of condolences to His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques on the passing of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on June 16.

HM sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation on his recent appointment as the President of Russia on May 7.
- His Excellency Francois Hollande, President of the Republic of France on the occasion of his inauguration as the President of France on May 15.
- His Excellency Jean-Marc Ayrault, Prime Minister of the Republic of France on the occasion of his appointment as the Prime Minister of France on May 16.
- His Excellency Dmitry Medvedev, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation on his recent appointment as the Prime Minister of Russia on May 23.
- His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein, King of Jordan on Jordan National Day Celebration on May 24.
- His Excellency Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III, President of the Republic of Philippines, as well as the Government and people of the Philippines on the occasion of the republic's 114th Independence Day on June 12.
- His Excellency Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Dmitry Medvedev, as well as the government and people of the Russia in conjunction with the republic's National Day on June 12.
- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, His Excellency Rt. Hon David Cameron MP on the occasion of the anniversary of Her Majesty's Birthday on June 16.
- Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence on his recently appointment as Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on June 19.
- His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Morsi on the occasion of his victory in the recent presidential election as the President of Arab Republic of Egypt on June 26.
- His Excellency The Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor-General of Canada as well as to the government and people of Canada on the occasion of Canada Day on June 30.

Hikmat Bersatu Exercise platform to evaluate RBAF capabilities

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 3 - The 4th Hikmat Bersatu Exercise 2012 was conducted within the boundaries of Brunei Darussalam including its Exclusive Economic Zone and air space with Low Intensity Operation concept that focused on the conflict and asymmetric warfare. It provided commanders with the platform to train combat forces in joint operations, to evaluate war plans and inter-operability between the services and units within the RBAF, and to execute their strategies and tactics.

* Continue on page 6

PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



His Majesty at the closing ceremony of the 4th Hikmat Bersatu Exercise 2012.

* From page 5
(Hikmat Bersatu Exercise platform to evaluate RBAF capabilities)

The exercise was part of RBAF's continuous efforts in developing professionalism and counter action at all levels of its units and departments towards any possibilities; and becomes a valuable platform for testing their capacity and ability to always be ready in upholding the sovereignty of the nation.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-

Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of RBAF officiated the closing ceremony of the exercise.

The 10-day exercise that commenced on April 23 involved all components of the RBAF, namely Royal Brunei Land Forces, Royal Brunei Navy, Royal Brunei Air Force, Special Regiment, Royal Brunei

Malay Reserves Regiment and Second Battalion of the Royal Gurkha Rifles of the British Armed Forces, as well as all relevant departments and offices under the Ministry of Defence. The exercise was implemented in four phases - shaping; secure; offensive operation; and stabilisation and transition.

More than 6,000 RBAF personnel were involved in the exercise.

More citizens receive keys to new homes

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 28 – A total of 128 people in the Brunei-Muara District received keys for their new homes and land lots under the Landless Indigenous Citizen Scheme (STKRJ) at Kampung Tanah Jambu, and land lots at Kampung Katok 'B' and Kampung Rimba under the National Housing Scheme (RPN).

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present the house keys and land lots to the recipients in a ceremony held at the Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Masna Secondary School in Lambak.



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents the house keys to one of the recipients.

Out of 128 recipients, 104 people were under the STKRJ at Kampung Tanah Jambu, 17 people received land lots at Kampung Katok 'B' and seven people received land lots at Kampung Rimba.

His Majesty then visited the Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Masna Secondary School, the Berakas Secondary School and the adjacent Pengiran Anak Puteri Mutawakillah Hayatul Bolkiah Religious School in Kampung Serusop.

His Majesty also visited several terrace houses of the new recipients under the STKRJ in Kampung Tanah Jambu, and Hasmit Shield Roofing Manufacturing Sendirian Berhad at the Lambak Kanan Industrial Site.

Meanwhile on May 5, another 583 citizens in the Belait District received keys for their new homes under the Lumut / Sungai Liang RPN, and semi-detached and terrace housing units in Panaga.

The key presentation ceremony was graced by His Majesty at Dewan Pusat Insani in Seria.

Three hundred and eighty recipients received basic-type houses under the Lumut / Sungai Liang RPN; 31 recipients of semi-detached houses, and 172 recipients of terrace housing units in Panaga.

His Majesty then visited the Muhammad Alam Primary School in Jalan Bunga Mawar, the Anthony Abell College in Jalan Sultan Omar Ali and the Chung Ching Middle School in Jalan Bolkiah. His Majesty also took a closer look at Adinin Works and Engineering Sendirian Berhad, and visited a number of houses of key recipients.

Providing shelter and comfortable homes to its citizens have always been a priority for the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. As such, a huge amount of budget has always been allocated to meet this vision particularly through the series of National Development Plan.

Celebration's symbol is not an advertisement

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 9 - A celebration's symbol or landmark is not an advertisement, not intended to attract customers as what advertisement does, but aims at instilling the spirit of nationhood.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted this matter in his *titah* (royal speech) at the National Executive Committee meeting for His Majesty's 66th birthday celebrations. The meeting was held at the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Patron of the National Executive Committee for His Majesty's birthday celebrations.

His Majesty said that any major

celebration such as the National Day must have a landmark of its own. The National Day landmark, for example, should bear such attributes as an attractive theme, the flying of flags, as well as mass prayers and thanksgiving ceremonies at mosques and *surau* (prayer hall) nationwide.

His Majesty asserted that the Malay Islamic Monarchy philosophy must not be sidelined in any form of modernisation being undertaken in the country.

Soon after the meeting, His Majesty visited several sections of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Over the past two decades, the ministry has made progress and achievements in implementing its roles and functions toward maintaining united, harmonious, peaceful, tranquillity and prosperous citizens and residents in the country.



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

A celebration's symbol or landmark is not an advertisement but aims at instilling the spirit of nationhood, said His Majesty at the National Executive Committee meeting for His Majesty's 66th birthday celebrations.

Brunei - Malaysia: Cooperation strengthen

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 11 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed happiness with the level of cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

His Majesty said in a *titah* (royal speech) at the royal banquet, in honour of Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, Al-Sultan Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Al-Haj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah and Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah who were on a three-day state visit to Brunei Darussalam.

The royal banquet took place at the Istana Darul Hana on May 10.

Also present was Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and other members of the royal family.

His Majesty, in his *titah*, said that Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia will continue to expand its fields of cooperation. Last year, from among ASEAN member states, Malaysia was Brunei Darussalam's biggest trade partner.

Meanwhile, in the afternoon, the 14th Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong visited the Royal Regalia Building.

On May 11, the 14th Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong Malaysia and Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong concluded the three-day state visit to Brunei Darussalam.

Prior to, His Majesty The Sultan And Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the 14th Seri Paduka Baginda Yang



Their Majesties together with Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong prior to the royal banquet.



The royal banquet hosted by His Majesty in honour of Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong's three-day state visit to Brunei Darussalam.

di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia performed the Friday prayer at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah in Kampung Kiarong.

With His Majesty were 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.

Their Majesties attend Diamond Jubilee Coronation Celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's reign

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, May 18 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri attended a reception and luncheon ceremonies hosted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh in conjunction with the Diamond Jubilee Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The ceremonies were held at Windsor Palace, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Their Majesties joined other state guests for a reception at the Waterloo Chamber and later proceeded to St. George's Hall for a luncheon.

Their Majesties joined other state guests for a reception at the Waterloo Chamber and later proceeded to St. George's Hall for a luncheon.

The historical event was attended by 25 state guests including from Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Belgium, Republic of Bulgaria, Kingdom of Denmark, Hellenic Republic of Greece, Kingdom of the



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with other state guests attending the reception and luncheon ceremonies in conjunction with the Diamond Jubilee Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Netherlands, Japan, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, State of Kuwait, Principality of Liechtenstein, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Malaysia, Principality of Monaco, Kingdom of Morocco, Kingdom of Norway, State of Qatar,

Romania, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Swaziland, Kingdom of Sweden, Kingdom of Thailand, Kingdom of Tonga, United Arab Emirates and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Their Majesties attend banquet

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, May 18 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri attended a banquet hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales and Her Royal Highness Camilla, The Duchess of Cornwall. The banquet was held at Blue

Drawing Room, Buckingham Palace.

The banquet was held to welcome state guests attending the celebration in conjunction with the Diamond Jubilee Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Reception to celebrate RBAF's 51st anniversary

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, June 1 - A reception to mark the 51st anniversary of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) was held at the Orchid Room, Dorchester Hotel.

In attendance at the reception were His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of RBAF. Also present at the reception was His Royal Highness Second Lieutenant Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

RBAF celebrates its anniversary every May 31.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Second Lieutenant Prince 'Abdul Mateen at a reception to celebrate RBAF's 51st anniversary.

PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents the award to Awang Haji Hassan bin Haji Taha, the recipient of Imam Excellent Award.

Prayer: Tool to fulfil life

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 17 - A call was made for Muslims to perform prayers, the main/primary religious obligation. It not only guarantees to gain benefits for hereafter but as a tool to fulfil life with good and praiseworthy behaviour, the opposite of dishonourable and disobedient.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a *tifah* (royal speech) to mark Israk Mikraj held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the Imam and Bilal Excellence Awards 1433 Hijrah. The recipient of the Imam Excellent Award was Awang Haji Hassan bin Haji Taha, Imam of Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque of Kampung Katimahar; and Mudim Haji Metassim bin Haji Metussin, Mosque Officer of Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque, the recipient of the Bilal Excellent Award.

2nd Pilot PKBN Training Camp receives royal visit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 21 - The 2nd Pilot Project of the National Service Programme (PKBN) Training Camp received a royal visit from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The event took place at the Sports Village in Berakas.

The project, which is held for 84 days, involved a total of 97 trainees comprising 67 male and 30 female youths aged between 16 to 18 years old. The participants are from different backgrounds namely those who have completed their Cambridge GCE 'A' and 'O' level exams and those who are still

seeking employment.

The PKBN provides an opportunity and exposure to the trainees to undergo various learning processes based on the Malay Islamic Monarchy concept. The trainees are exposed to character-

* Continue on page 9

* From page 8
(2nd Pilot PKBN Training Camp receives royal visit)

building such as discipline, teamwork, as well as mental, emotional and physical endurance in overcoming various challenges.

The PKBN continues to be updated with necessary training programmes towards making it more attractive, effective and relevant to current needs. Throughout the training, trainees undergo programmes with full resolution and discipline. Fifty-three experienced supervisors and facilitators comprising members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Royal Brunei Police Force, the Fire and Rescue Department, Prisons Department, Islamic Religious Education Department and Outward Bound Brunei Darussalam, and volunteers are tasked on a full-time basis throughout the programme.

PKBN's third pioneer project is scheduled to be held from December 10, 2012 until March 4, 2013. The programme is expected to fulfill His Majesty's aspirations towards producing youths that could bring dynamic and progressive change to the nation.



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

His Majesty takes a closer look at one of the paintball gun.



PHOTO: AK AMIRUNIZAM PG HAJI MOHD. ALI

His Majesty at Brunei Islamic Religious Council's special meeting.

Brunei Islamic Religious Council convenes special meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 28 - A call was made by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for members of the Brunei Islamic Religious Council to convene a special meeting in regards to the drafting of the Syariah Penal Code.

The meeting was held in Baitul Mesyuarah, Istana Nurul Iman.

Also attending the meeting was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

His Majesty on official visit to Thailand



PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

His Majesty paid a goodwill visit to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand at the Grand Palace.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Excellency the Prime Minister of Thailand.

BANGKOK, THAILAND, June 30 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is in Bangkok, Thailand for a four-day official visit to the kingdom from June 29.

The official visit of His Majesty to Thailand is on the invitation of the Prime Minister of Thailand, Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra.

On June 30, His Majesty paid a goodwill visit to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand at Grand Palace.

His Majesty also met Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand at the Government House where His Majesty held a one-to-one meeting with Her Excellency at the Ivory Room.

After the meeting, His Majesty attended a dinner reception hosted by Her Excellency. The reception took place at the Outer Santi Mantri Building.

Also accompanying His Majesty were Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Finance II and Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II.

His Royal Highness graces National Qur'an Reading Competition For Adults

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 1 - The perfect human model in the aspect of behaviour will be able to develop a continued dynamic and progressive community and nation. This will uphold the agenda of nation-building based on the characteristics of Islamic civilisation that covers national administration system based on *syura* (meeting), equality in social system and fair trade system and economy.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, said in his *sabda* (royal speech) on the official opening of the National Al-Qur'an Reading Competition For Adults 1433 Hijrah/2012 Masihi.

The three-night event is held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

His Royal Highness in a *sabda* said the balance point between physical and spiritual development are based on the Al-Qur'an and As-Sunnah that will continuously be relevant in life. And this contributes to maintaining prosperity of the *Baldatun Tayyibatun Warabbun Ghafur* (A state that is good and full of forgiveness from Allah SWT) country, as

in the *tifath* (royal speech) of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the official opening of the 1st Meeting of the 8th Legislative Council Meeting.

His Royal Highness, in his *sabda*, said Al-Qur'an is the greatest of *zikir*. Hence, reading and understanding the content of the beautiful and pure verses would certainly remind us of the greatness of Allah The Almighty as Al-Qur'an is the greatest of all remedies.

His Royal Highness, in the *sabda*, also said that the interpretation of Al-Qur'an can be easily found in various languages and is accessible in various forms of digitalised and publication. Therefore, there was no reason for us not to seek as much as possible the content and blessings in-depth so that we can gain benefits from the holy-book of Al-Qur'an.

Four readers, two *qari* (male reader) and two *qariah* (female reader) performed their readings on the first night.

The competition is organised annually by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. It is hoped that the competition would give local readers exposure and experience as well as motivation towards achieving excellence in Al-Qur'an reading.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

"The perfect human model in the aspect of behaviour would be able to develop a continued dynamic and progressive community and nation," said His Royal Highness The Crown Prince at the National Al-Qur'an Reading Competition For Adults 1433 Hijrah/2012 Masihi.

The theme of this year's competition is 'Al-Qur'an Panduan Kesempurnaan Insan' (Al-Qur'an Guidance of Human Perfection.)

Generate Islamic finance industry

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 15 - Brunei Darussalam needs to create a comprehensive regulator as well as legislation and regulation system. In the context of businesses, the Islamic banking system must be more 'business friendly', offering various Syariah-compliant financing methodologies and instruments, which can generate more opportunities to Muslims to engage actively in their respective areas of business. From other aspects, the inclination to such efforts are apt as continued support to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's aspiration to improve the 'ease of doing business' in the country.

His Royal Highness Prince Dr. Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, who is the Pro-Chancellor of the Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) said in a *sabda* (royal speech) at the official opening ceremony of the International Conference on Information and Finance (ICIF 2012) and 6th Regional Shariah Scholars' Dialogue (MCSN 6).

The event is held at the The Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

The world was taken by surprise by an economic crisis caused by a sub-prime mortgage crisis in United States of America nearly five years ago. It threatened the position of many banking institutions, including a number of leading ones as a result of their being exposed to debts and low quality assets or toxic, which in turn affected the global credit sector.

His Royal Highness said that the crisis has given us many useful lessons and examples. It has clearly brought to light many weaknesses in many aspects, whether from the aspects of business model, governance or legislation and regulations as well as control found in the Conventional Financial System that need to be improved and up-dated.

Thus, realising this, Islamic intellectuals are resolved to bring forth an Islamic economic and financial system founded on pure religious norms and principles that are suitable to be developed as an alternative that truly promises a more comprehensive solution to the current issues faced by the Conventional Financial System.

The ICIF 2012 carries the theme: 'Islamic Finance: Development, Challenges and Responses,' while MCSN 6 is themed: 'Syariah Guideline in the Application of Ijarah Mawsufah Fi Dzimmah and Investment Issues in Takaful.'

The conference and consultation provide a platform for scholars, Islamic financial experts, intellectuals and academics to present the result of their research and new ideas on Islamic finance and banking.

Several Islamic finance and banking experts from Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Republic of Indonesia, Kingdom of Thailand and Islamic Republic of Pakistan were invited to present working papers during the three-day conference.

Deputy Sultan visits National Development Plan projects

MENTIRI, May 19 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Deputy Sultan as the Executive Committee Chairman of the 10th National Development Plan (NDP) held a working visit and took a closer look at three projects under the 10th NDP.

His Royal Highness visited the Kampung Mengkabau National Housing Project site.

At the site, His Royal Highness was briefed on the project by Deputy Managing Director of Brunei Economic Development Board, Dr. Haji Abd. Manaf bin Haji Metussin and followed by a briefing on Meragang National Housing Project and Flyover project at the Muara-Tutong Highway/ Berakas Linkroad Interchange presented by Acting Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Development, Awang Haji Marzuke bin Haji Mohsin.

After the briefing, His Royal Highness visited the materials' production sites and the Showhouse - Terrace type.

Under the Mengkabau National Housing Project, 4,000 houses will be built within 48 months with a cost of \$388.3 million.

His Royal Highness then proceeded

* Continue on page 11

* From page 10
(Deputy Sultan visits National Development Plan projects)



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness at the National Housing Project site in Kampung Meragang.

to National Housing Project site in Kampung Meragang and visited the Showhouse - Standard type.

The area will provide 1,857 houses and 198 land lots which will be distributed by year 2012 and 2013.

His Royal Highness then visited the Kampung Tanah Jambu National Housing Project site and flyover project at the Muara-Tutung Highway/ Berakas Linkroad Interchange and site office.

With an area of 450 hectares, the Kampung Tanah Jambu National Housing Project site will provide 1,522 houses and 604 land lots expected to be distributed by end of this year.

At the site office, His Royal Highness was briefed on the flyover project by Acting Deputy Director-General of Public Works Department, Dayang Hajah Siah binti Haji Amat.

The flyover project at the Muara-Tutung Highway/ Berakas Linkroad Interchange which costs almost \$33 million begun in August, 2011 and expected to be completed in February 2014.

Relevant curriculum to meet today's demands

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 24 - Institutions of higher learning should revise their educational curriculum and programmes to remain relevant with today's demands particularly requirements of the working environment. This is because the end-products of the programmes potentially constitute a generation of thinkers that have the responsibilities and roles to the success and achievement of the nation's vision.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan, stated this in a *sabda* (royal speech) during the 21st Convocation of Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB).

The ceremony was held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

His Royal Highness urged ITB to continue strengthen its cooperation with local employers and industries, while at the same time enhance its focus on its diligence in its innovation and research undertakings.

His Royal Highness expressed his hope that the graduates will be able to maximise the full benefits of all knowledge and skills they acquired, as well as the positive attitudes that had been ingrained within themselves through their years of studying at ITB. Such a foundation, His Royal Highness said, is important as these graduates will be entering a job environment that is extremely challenging, whether in the public or private sector.

His Royal Highness further said that ITB needs to improve its performance profile by keeping abreast of the current trends of regional and international higher learning centres. Higher learning institutions in the country, His Royal Highness asserted, should expand their roles by exploring fields of study that have the potential to contribute towards the national economic diversification efforts. They should also open new opportunities for high quality employment in addition to



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness presents a Higher National Diploma to one of the graduates of the 25th intake.

being capable of attracting productive investment.

His Royal Highness consented to present Higher National Diploma to 384 graduates of the 25th intake. They comprised graduates in civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, business, and computer and information system. Out of the number, 190 graduated are from the Faculty of Engineering and 194 are graduates of Faculty of Business and Computing.

RBAF celebrates 51st anniversary

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, MAY 31 - The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) should play its role in consolidating the country's defence institution through a more comprehensive and well-directed military development plan.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan and General of RBAF said in a *sabda* (royal speech) at an event to celebrate RBAF's 51st anniversary.

His Royal Highness pointed out that with such a role, RBAF will be more confident in tackling any current and future challenges. Towards this goal, the Government of His

Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to the establishment of a long-term Military Capability Development Programme for the development and expansion of the country's defence institution's authoritativeness to the desired level.

The celebration took place at the Royal Brunei Navy's Base in Muara.

His Royal Highness said that in the context of implementing RBAF's role in consolidating the national defence institution, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has always emphasised

on the need for a plan that is directed towards transparent development to achieve the objectives of the country's defence. The main objective, His Royal Highness added, is to establish a military force that is resilient, and has its own capabilities as well as a high level of professionalism and preparedness.

The theme of this year's celebration - 'Defending My Country Brunei Darussalam' carries a profound meaning and is relevant to the RBAF in general. As a sultanate that is unique and has

* Continue on page 12

* From page 11
(RBAF celebrates 51st anniversary)

successfully established its name in various fields of international management and relations, the country's role can be defined as having the highest regard for global peace. This is apart from possessing positive competitiveness and high vision towards any internal, regional or global plans.

At the celebration, His Royal Highness also watched military maneuvers at sea to Bravo Jetty area; and viewed a static display from RBAF Units, Ministry of Defence and Ex-Army Association.



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

His Royal Highness takes a closer look at an exhibition by RBAF Units, Ministry of Defence.

His Royal Highness visits more projects under 10th NDP

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 7 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as the Chairman of the National Committee of the 10th National Development Plan (NDP) continues to visit projects under the 10th NDP.

His Royal Highness began his visit by visiting the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital namely the Orthopedic Ward (Ward 25) and the First Class Ward (Ward 17).

His Royal Highness then took a closer look at the Women and Children Block Building Project Phase One at RIPAS Hospital. The project which costs more than \$57 million is expected to be completed in October 2013.

His Royal Highness also visited the project site of the Jalan Residency Maintenance Project Phase One in the capital. This project is scheduled to be completed in December this year with a cost of more than \$24 million. It includes the construction of a four-lane dual-carriageway from Bubungan Dua Belas to Pintu Malim, a safe pedestrian walkway as well as a more systematic and comfortable car park and two new passenger jetties.

His Royal Highness then visited the project site for the upgrading of the Sekolah Tinggi Perempuan Raja Isteri (STPRI). The project is part of the Nationwide Secondary Schools Upgrading Project undertaken by the Ministry of Education costing more than \$6 million. The objective of this project is to upgrade school's condition to meet the requirement of the National Education System of the 21st Century (SPN21).

Carry out research on Malay Islamic education and civilisation

JERUDONG, June 27 - A call was made for intensive research to be carried out on the development of the Malay Islamic education and civilisation, so as to serve as a pointer for academics in the region to further gather knowledge as a platform for Islamic eminence.

The call was made by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office in his *sabda* (royal speech) at the official opening of the 5th Borneo International Islamic Conference held at the Conference Hall of Brunei International Defence Exhibition and Conference.

The event is organised jointly by the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB) and Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Sarawak.

Accompanying His Royal Highness was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Royal Highness further said that there are still many hidden knowledge yet to be explored and unrevealed in Borneo, especially those pertaining to the Islamic development and propagation, eminent figures, the writing of manuscripts and the role of Islamic learning institutions.

His Royal Highness hoped that academics in the region will continue to gather the knowledge as a foundation of Islamic knowledge for them to discuss and to further foster relations. In addition, intellectuals would also have the opportunity to cultivate their respective knowledge to be shared for the benefit of the general public.

While touching on the Islamic civilisation in Borneo, His Royal Highness pointed out that, on the determination of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the country has been declared as a Zikir Nation.

His Royal Highness said that the objectives are clear which are to incorporate noble moral values and the various Islamic teachings as the national culture in perpetuating Islamic civilisation in the country. To this end, KUPU SB, as a teaching and Islamic education institution in this country, plays an important and noble role in producing role models with strong faith and knowledge, as well as able to respond to the challenges of Islamic education development in this age of globalisation.

The conference with the theme 'Uncovering the Secret of Islamic Education, Knowledge and Glory of Islamic Civilisation in Borneo' gathered about 500 academic members, religious teachers and university students from Brunei Darussalam and other countries. The objectives are to collect academic items and work on knowledge regarding Islamic Education development in Borneo which will become future reference and provide a discussion platform on the development of Islamic Education and other Islamic issues in Borneo.

BICTA 2012 displays positive ICT growth

JERUDONG, June 28 - More new innovative and exciting projects were seen at the Brunei Info-Communication Technology Awards (BICTA) 2012 indicating positive progress in local Info-Communication Technology (ICT) sector.

This year's BICTA 2012 saw a number of categories namely the Secondary School category; Tertiary Education Institutions; ICT Industry. Four special awards - green ICT award, Islamic ICT award, Made in Brunei Product award, and New Media and Entertainment award were also offered at BICTA 2012.

In the Secondary School category, Chung Hwa Middle School was announced as the winner with its project entitled 'Brunei Treasure'. The school won a cash prize of \$2,000 and trophy.

In the Tertiary Education Institutions category, Laksmana College of Business emerged champion with a project entitled 'CloudHub'. The college won a cash prize of \$7,000 and trophy.

The ICT Industry category which offered a \$10,000 cash prize and trophy was won by Emettra Applied Technology Company with an innovation start-up product 'Emettra Takaful Management System'.

* Continue on page 13

* from page 12
(BICTA 2012 displays positive ICT growth)



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince presents a mock cheque to one of the winners.

Mediahikmah Enterprise through 'Mari Bersembahyang' and Datasolutions through 'Paranormal Tracks' under similar ICT category won the e-logistic product and new media and entertainment product respectively with each receiving \$10,000 and a trophy.

Meanwhile, Mediahikmah Enterprise won the Islamic ICT Award; Datasolution won the New Media and Entertainment award. While Made in Brunei Product Award was won by PHMD Publishing for their 'ROAD Safety-Interactive e-book'.

Meanwhile, the Royal Patron Award went to Mediahikmah Enterprise. This special Royal Patron Awards is only held biennially, while BICTA competition is an annual event.

In attendance to present the awards was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Patron of BICTA.

The event took place at The Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong.

The winner of the BICTA Awards 2012 competition will be competing for the Asia Pacific Info-Communication Technology Alliance Awards (APICTA) which will be hosted by Brunei Darussalam in December 2012.

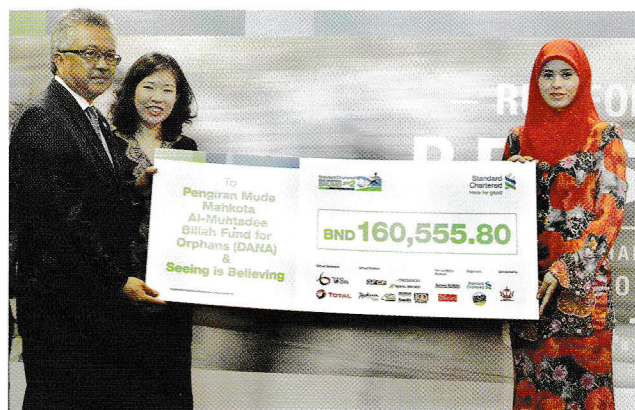
Marathon to raise fund

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 8 - Standard Chartered Brunei (SCB) collected \$160,555.80 from the SCB Half-Marathon 2012. The amount will be donated to Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans (DANA) and the bank's Seeing Is Believing Programme.

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah consented to attend and present the contribution held at the Radisson Hotel.

The mock cheque for DANA was received by its Chief Executive Officer; Awang Haji Brahim bin Haji Ismail; meanwhile the bank's representative for the Seeing Is Believing Programme was Dayang Lai Pei-Si.

The half-marathon held on April 8 received strong support from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Brunei Athletics Association. More than 4,000 participants took part in the race, an increase of 87 per cent from the total number of participants in last year's similar event.



Her Royal Highness presents the mock cheque to the Chief Executive Officer of DANA, Awang Haji Brahim bin Haji Ismail.

ICT, a key driver for development

JERUDONG, May 17 - Info-Communication Technology (ICT) has become a key driver for development and helped raise the standards of living for much of the world and its population.

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah stated the matter in her *sabda* (royal speech) on the occasion of the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) 2012 celebration at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Her Royal Highness said that ICT has proven to be a catalyst that allows communities for greater access to a wider and more diverse range of opportunities; be it economic activities, social interaction or for learning and education.

Her Royal Highness said that for women and girls around the world, ICT has become a channel of communication and education. It provides them with new avenues to learn, share their knowledge and to compete on an equal basis with their male peers for employment. However, we should not lose sight of the

fact that ICT can only act as an enabler.

The event was also highlighted with a Panel Discussion by prominent ICT Women from both the government and private sectors who shared several challenges and career opportunities for women's involvement and participation in the ICT-related activities as well as career prospects in ICT for women.

The speakers were researchers from the Centre for Strategic and Policy Studies (CSPS), Dr. Sophiana Chua Abdullah; Senior Special Duties Officer and Chief Information Officer at the Prime Minister's Office, Dayang Mariah binti Taha and the Manager of Microsoft Sendirian Berhad, Dayang Azizah binti Ali. The discussion was chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of BAG Networks, Dayang Haslina Taib.

Meanwhile, a local women entrepreneur, Dayang Hajah Noraini binti Haji Jamudin, founder of Taste on Tray also shared her experience on how ICT has helped her to successfully start, manage and run a home business in the bakery industry.



Info-Communications Technology (ICT) has become a key driver for development, said Her Royal Highness at the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) 2012 celebration.

Her Royal Highness also presented a mock certificate of ICT training Programme participation to two leading women's associations in the country, namely the Brunei Darussalam Women's Council and Women Business Council of Brunei Darussalam; tokens of appreciation to speakers and moderator.

HSBC 2012 Charity Event



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

Her Royal Highness among the participants in the HSBC Walk, Run, Cycle (WRC) 2012 Charity Event.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 19 - More than 10,000 people joined the HongKong Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Walk, Run, Cycle (WRC) 2012 Charity Event. This event was organised to collect donations for children with special needs. Hundred per cent of the donations will be contributed to non-government bodies and charity associations.

Among the participants was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah.

The event themed 'Unleash Their Ability' took place at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin in the capital.

The 'Walk Run Cycle' event is the first of its kind to be held at night. The cycling event was divided into four categories: 30 kilometres, 11.5 kilometres, 6 kilometres and 2 kilometres. The three categories in the running event were the 11.5 kilometres, 6 kilometres and 2 kilometres.

Charity Netball Championship

BERAKAS, June 3 - The Ivy League team with the cooperation of the Brunei Darussalam National Netball Association for the first time held a charity netball championship aimed at developing netball in the country; as well as to collect donations for the Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam and the Brunei KACA Association funds.

The Angel Net 'A' team won the championship with NN Speed in second place and Revival NC in third. The championship was held at the Multi-purpose Hall of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium Sports Complex.

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman consented to take part in the championship, representing ANGEL NET 'A' Team. Also in attendance was the son of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim.

Seventeen teams took part in the championship which was divided into Group 'A' and 'B'. The championship was also to find new talents among the netball players with the potential to become national athletes.

Prizes were presented by Major General (Rtd.) Dato Haji Mohd. Jaafar. The champion received the Ivy League Trophy.

During the Ivy League championship, a total of \$33,600 in donations were collected where \$16,800 was presented to the Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam fund. A similar amount was received by Brunei KACA Association.



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah (left) holds the championship trophy as winner of the Charity Netball Championship.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of BDNOC cuts the ribbon to officiate Olympic Day 2012.

Olympic Day 2012

TUTONG, June 24 - The Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) recently organised an Olympic Day 2012.

Various sports events involving the participation of all levels of the community were carried out as the highlight of the celebration. It aimed to strengthen family values, reflecting mutual respect apart from promoting sports activities for health.

Present to officiate the Olympic Day 2012 was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of BDNOC.

The ceremony took place at the Tutong Sports Complex.

Also present was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul 'Aleem.

Olympic Day 2012 was organised by BDNOC with the cooperation of the Youth and Sports Department, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Parents responsible shaping children's development

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 15 - The responsibilities of parents are very challenging in shaping their children's behaviour, discipline and moral development according to the changes of time. This was highlighted in a seminar with the theme 'My Family, My Hope' which was held in conjunction with the

International Day of Families celebration at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Present to grace the celebration was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

Two speakers from the Islamic Da'wah Centre, Awang Haji Mail bin Haji Besar and Dayang Hajah Zunainah binti Haji

Gunong gave talks on parental skills from the Islamic perspective.

The seminar was aimed at strengthening the family institution in Brunei Darussalam, instilling the love towards children as well as enhancing the parental skills among the participants.

Brunei Shell Joint Venture Road Safety Roadshow launched

SERIA, June 9 - The Brunei Shell Joint Venture (BSJV) Road Safety Roadshow 2012 was launched as part of the effort to reduce the rate of accident which is the source of injuries, handicaps and fatalities among road users in the country.

Present to launch the roadshow was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Patron of the Brunei Darussalam National Road Safety Council.

The event took place at the Oil and Gas Discovery Centre.

The roadshow was organised by BSJV companies with the cooperation of the Public and Private Sector organisations.

The theme of the roadshow is 'Saving Lives on Brunei's Roads'.

The roadshow was participated by government agencies as well as related private sectors in providing the current information on aspects of road safety.

The roadshow reflects Brunei Darussalam's commitment in implementing United Nations' effort to balance and reduce road fatalities across the globe by enhancing road safety awareness at the national, regional and international level.



Her Royal Highness at one of the exhibited items displayed during the Brunei Shell Joint Venture Road Safety Roadshow.

PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

'Model Schools' catalyze Nation Vision 2035

RIMBA, May 7 - 'Model Schools' are hoped to act as a catalysts in accelerating efficiently and effectively towards achieving the objective and education goal in National Education System for 21st Century (SPN21) and towards achieving the Brunei Vision 2035.

By learning the strengths, opportunities and weaknesses from 'Model Schools', it will be able to produce more schools as Model Schools.

Hence, principals and headmasters are urged to be more creative and

open minded in guiding, managing and administrating the schools by using methods of transformational, distributive instructional collaborative or pastoral leadership and others.

The Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Abu Bakar underscored the matters at the launching of 'Model Schools' held at Rimba II Secondary School Hall.

According to the minister, autonomy and accountability is the method that will be implementing in such Model Schools. The autonomy implemented in Brunei Darussalam are in innovative and creative form in management of teaching, management of school staff, pedagogy, assessment of student and administration and financial management.

The Model Schools will be given a sum of allocation and authority to manage and supervise the allocation based on the existing financial regulations. The Model Schools will be given the authority to choose their teachers with the Schools Department support. The assessments of learning outcomes will be conducted

by the schools and not necessarily follow the standard tests. The assessments learning outcomes will be shared to the public and also parents through parents meeting or day.

Efforts to achieve the objective of Model Schools need cooperation as well as supports from all parties, departments in the Ministry of Education, schools, parents, communities and stakeholders.

The minister believed that with such cooperation, Brunei Vision 2035 in making Brunei Darussalam well-known throughout the world with its 'Educated Citizens, Highly-Skilled and Successful' will be achieved.

For phase one of the project, the Ministry of Education has identified three Primary Schools, one Secondary School and one Vocational School to become 'Model Schools' namely; Sultan Hashim Batu Apoi Primary School in Temburong District; Panaga Primary School in Belait District; Perpindahan Kampung Bukit Beruang II (Dua) Primary School in Tutong District; Rimba Dua Secondary School and Wasan Vocational School in Brunei-Muara District.



The Minister of Education presents a poster to one of the schools identified to be a 'Model Schools'.

PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

First Hybrid Rice 'TITIH' launched

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 9 - The variety first hybrid rice of Brunei Darussalam, SAT-11 is now known as TITIH.

The launching of the new name was conducted by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya.

Hybrid Paddy Project is a technology introduced in paddy planting in the country and one of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources' strategies through the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood to increase the country's paddy production.

The introduction of the hybrid variety is in line with Brunei Darussalam's objective of achieving self-sufficiency in paddy cultivation apart from identifying other suitable varieties to be adapted into the national agriculture programme.

The ceremony was also highlighted with a prize presentation to the winner of the competition in creating the name of the Hybrid Paddy. Abang Hariz bin Abang Hadzman from Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Secondary School, Tutong won the competition and received a cash prize of \$1,000.



Abang Hariz bin Abang Hadzman won the competition in creating the name of the Hybrid Paddy.

PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAWAN

Hybrid Rice Development Project signed

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 9 - The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) through the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood will continue to commercialise its variety first hybrid rice in the country. The ministry also made an effort to increase the capability of the department as well as the entrepreneurs in the hybrid rice development.

Hence, a signing of Contract of Agreement for the Hybrid Rice Development Cooperation Project between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Sunland Agri-Tech Sendirian Berhad from the Republic of Singapore was held.

Representing the Government of

His Majesty was the Acting Director of Agriculture and Agrifood, Dayang Hajah Aidah binti Haji Mohd Hanifah. Meanwhile, Sunland Agri-Tech Sendirian Berhad was represented by the Project Manager, David Chen.

Present to witness the signing ceremony was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya.

Priority given to protect cultural diversification

DHAKA, BANGLADESH, May 12 - Brunei Darussalam gives priority to the importance of protecting the nation's cultural diversification. Brunei Darussalam's cultural diversification is based on the 1961 National Registration Act. The cultures of seven ethnic races in this country contribute to its cultural diversification. This is further enhanced in the Malay Islamic Monarchy concept.

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair clarified the matter at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Forum on Cultural Diversification in Dhaka, Bangladesh. According to the minister, as part of the ASEAN organisation, Brunei Darussalam has also made efforts towards encouraging and protecting

diversification of cultural expressions through establishment of multi-lateral cooperation under the ASEAN Declaration on Cultural Diversification 2011 with the slogan, Solidarity In Diversification.

The minister further said that ASEAN share many common heritages, histories and cultures. Meanwhile, under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural banner, ASEAN is working towards empowering culture and make it as a catalyst to encourage unity, understanding and cooperation among ASEAN member nations and people, to achieve the objective in establishing ASEAN Community 2015. Brunei Darussalam and ASEAN are working closely with its dialogue partners including

ASEAN-Japan, ASEAN-China and ASEAN-Korea in the field of culture.

The forum aimed to encourage endorsement of more Asia-Pacific nations through exchange of experience among participating countries including information on the benefit of becoming a member nation.

Meanwhile, in a separate function, the minister held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Youth and Sports of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, His Excellency Md. Ahad Ali Sarkar. During the meeting, both ministers exchanged views and ideas on cooperation in the field of youth and sports.

MoU on expansion project of COGEN Energy Plant

LUMUT, May 15 - The expansion project of the Co-Generation (COGEN) Energy Plant at Lumut Power Station is important both strategically and economically for Brunei Darussalam and is part of the country's 9th National Development Plan.

This was disclosed by the Minister of Energy, Pehin Colonel (Rtd.) Dato Dr. Awang Hj Mohammad Yasmin at the signing of Memorandum of Understanding at the Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas (BLNG) in Lumut, Belait District.

The new COGEN Energy Plant will improve the reliability of power supply with overall efficiency of greater than 60 per cent, as compared to the power plant in Bukit Panggal and Gadong with an efficiency of only 45 per cent and 23 per cent respectively.

Signing on behalf of the Department of Energy, Prime Minister's Office was the Permanent Secretary for Downstream and Power, Haji Awang Jamain bin Haji Julaihi; while representing BLNG Sendirian Berhad was its Managing Director, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw.

This project is expected to be completed in 2014. When completed, it will save natural gas consumption of gas reserve for over 20 years.

OIC 5th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers

KAZAKHSTAN, May 19 - The 5th Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers from the Organisation of Islamic Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan concluded with the endorsement of Documents on Green Economy, its role and relevance in Islamic countries: Executive Work Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Islamic Countries, the Islamic Declaration on Sustainable Development within the Framework of the Islamic World's Participation in the Rio+20 Summit, General Framework of the Islamic Agenda for Sustainable Development and Progress Report on Implementation of the Project of 'Islamic Academy for the Environment and Sustainable Development'.

Representing Brunei Darussalam at the two-day conference was the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi and senior officers from the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation.

The minister in his statement emphasised the need for finding a balance between what is needed in securing the sustenance of environment and natural resources and sustaining the people's quality of life and economic development. The minister also emphasised that each country has its own strength and capability as well as limitations in facing and addressing these challenges. The minister said by putting the action together through collaborative and concerted efforts, such as this forum, countries will be able to build individual strength and experiences in dealing with those challenges.

Closer cooperation in agriculture discussed

BANGKOK, THAILAND, May 23 - Brunei Darussalam and Thailand proposed to promote respective halal food industry. Thailand is good at farm products and *halal* science; while Brunei Darussalam wants to develop a Halal Industry Centre and promote *halal* standard.

The matter was discussed during a meeting between the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya and Thailand's Foreign Minister, His Excellency Surapong Tovichakchaikul. The minister is on a six-

day official visit to Thailand.

The Thailand Foreign Minister noted that both countries should join forces and Brunei Darussalam could use Thailand as a base of its export-oriented production. His Excellency Surapong also said Thailand could share expertise in agriculture including paddy cultivation, fishery and chicken farming that interests Brunei Darussalam.

The minister said Brunei Darussalam is trying to promote the production of its indigenous rice called 'Laila'. The minister

also said Brunei Darussalam wants to learn rice cultivation technology and processed rice products from Thailand.

Brunei Darussalam is the ninth largest Southeast Asian trade partner of Thailand. The value of trade between Thailand and Brunei Darussalam last year was estimated at USD269 million. Thailand exports to Brunei Darussalam include rice, transformers and parts, cement, ceramics, rubber products and paper. While Thailand imports Brunei Darussalam's oil and other products.

Museum's role needs to intensified

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 19 - In line with the national vision of 2035 and the Malay Islamic Monarchy concept, museums should be modern, sophisticated and attractive to visitors in addition to their appearance aspects and artistic values.

The Department of Brunei Museums needs to intensify the role of the museum besides making it more relevant as an institution responsible for disseminating information and educating the community.

The matter was highlighted by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair at the launching of International Museum Day 2012 Celebration.

The minister added establishing branches of museum galleries at various districts need to be implemented as soon as possible. The minister also hoped that the Department of Brunei Museums will make improvement by giving additional value to the existing galleries and need to plan in converting 'Bandar Seri Begawan into a Historical Town' because of the availability of locations of museum assets

and infrastructure strategically around Bandar Seri Begawan. These can be implemented through systematic and interesting integration and connectivity that bring improvement added-value to the existing assets and infrastructure.

The minister said if these are implemented, the museums and museum assets in Brunei Darussalam especially in Bandar Seri Begawan such as the Royal Regalia Museum, Old Custom Building, Bubungan Dua Belas, Brunei Museum-Kota Batu, Malay Technology Museum, Kota Batu Archaeological Park and Maritime Museum will become a source of cultural education, a valuable national heritage and tourist attractions.

The event also coincided with the launching of a book entitled 'Towards Excellent Museum Management' which among other things, highlight the roles and functions of museums in social development.

The minister also presented the Exemplary Employee Awards to three recipients as well as appreciation certificates to eight retiring staff members of the museum.

The function was highlighted with the presentation of the Symposium Premier Working Paper entitled 'Interpreting Living Heritage; Bringing people to Museums and Museums to people', presented by an expert in the field of culture and heritage from the United States of America, Dr. Richard Engelhardt.

The theme of this year's celebration is 'Continuous Changes of World Museum: New Challenge, New Inspiration.'



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports officially launched International Museum Day 2012 celebration.

PHOTO: HATRAL HAZMI ABD. HAMID

Metrological infrastructure actively upgraded

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 9 - The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources through the National Standards Council at present is actively working to upgrade the meteorological infrastructure in Brunei Darussalam.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya stated the matter during the World Meteorological Day 2012 held at the Setia Pahlawan Hall at the ministry's building.

Monitoring on the standardisation of weights and measures is highly sought after in everyday work to ensure the quality lives namely health, safety, and environment also food quality. One of the elements in the planning is the setting up of the National Meteorological Committee, which is under the watch of the National Standards Council.

According to the minister, the committee would function as an advisor in matters related to the national policy objective for measurement systems activities, conformity evaluation, and quality laboratory management also reference laboratories at the national and international levels. The laboratories would be able to assist on the traceability issues as well as to strengthen the infrastructure and conformant standard which is needed by every nation to upgrade their trade, security and protection activities.

In line with this year's World Meteorology Day's theme, 'Meteorology for Safety' and slogan 'We Measure for Your Safety', the minister hoped that Brunei Darussalam will observe the World Meteorology Day every year with aims to further expose the importance of meteorology or science of measurement in the daily life.

The celebration was highlighted by the screening of a 'World Meteorology Day 2012 Video Clip', as well as two talks entitled 'The Role of Meteorology in National Quality Infrastructure and Legal Meteorology - A Means Towards Ensuring Fair Trade and Consumer Protection'.

Science, technology and innovation drive world's economy

TUNGKU, June 11 - Science, technology and innovation drive the world's economic prosperity and social development, as well as provide tools and solutions to address global challenges.

The Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Abu Bakar stated the matter at the opening of the 1st ASEAN Plus Three Junior Science Odyssey (APT-JSO) held at Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

For Brunei Darussalam to remain an innovative, progressive and relevant nation in the global economy, it is imperative to maximise the utilisation of science, technology and innovation, both within the country's local context and in collaboration with other ASEAN Plus Three nations.

The minister hoped that the APT-JSO would instill in students a global mindset in the pursuit of scientific knowledge by being innovative and creative. The participants should use the opportunity to work collaboratively, to share ideas and network with like-minded peers during the laboratory skills assessments and field projects.

The theme for APT-JSO 2012 was 'Science and Dynamic Tropical Rain Forest'.

Protect marine life in Brunei waters

MUARA, June 11 - The irresponsible acts of polluting the marine environment such as disposing of and leaving fishing nets and disused fishing equipment and using explosives or poison to catch fish or other marine life still occur in Brunei waters.

This matter was highlighted by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya during the launching of World Ocean Day 2012.

The function took place at the Meragang Beach, Muara with the theme of 'UNCLOS at 30' in commemoration with the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982.

The minister said as response to such acts, a number of activities are being introduced in which the authorities, with the help of divers in the country, work to remove fishing nets and other equipment that are entangled or stucked in the coral reefs; alongside awareness campaigns for fishermen. The move is meant to restore and protect marine and coral life in the country, and to subsequently raise productivity in fisheries.

The minister further said that, in efforts to instill a sense of caring and responsibility amongst the public towards preserving marine life,

* Continue on page 18

* From page 17

(Protect marine life in Brunei waters)

The Fisheries Department has begun the Reef Check Eco Diver Training for Youth, which aims to get youths involved in monitoring marine and coral life.

In conjunction with the World Ocean Day 2012 celebration, a book entitled 'Field Guide to Reef-Building Corals of Brunei Darussalam' was launched. It features ways to identify the various types of coral, of which 400 have been identified in Brunei waters. The book would serve as a reference source for researchers and scientists as they continue to study marine biodiversity areas yet to be explored in Brunei Darussalam waters.

The minister also officially opened the Marine Biodiversity Centre Building in Meragang. The centre is another initiative of the Fisheries Department in promoting public awareness on the preservation and management of marine biodiversity in the country, providing rehabilitation and recovery treatment for marine life caught or found; and in carrying out research and learning programmes.



PHOTO: AK. AMIRULIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya releases a turtle at the Marine Biodiversity Centre in Meragang as part of World Ocean Day 2012 activity.

Sustainable development, one of country's goals



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

The Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi during his keynote address.

JERUDONG, June 20 - The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is committed to ensure that every citizen and resident and every business in Brunei Darussalam receive an adequate supply of water. This is to ensure a high quality standard of living in Brunei Darussalam.

Sustainable development has long been one of the country's stated goals, featured in the present 10th National Development Plan (NDP) and even earlier NDP.

The Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi highlighted the matter in his keynote address at the opening of the National Environment Conference held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Choosing 'Conserving Our Resources for a Sustainable Future' as this year's theme, the conference was presented with a keynote presentation on 'The Future of Water' by a special guest speaker, Dr. David Gallo, an Ocean Explorer and Director of Special Projects of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, United States of America. About 270 delegates attended the one-day conference.

Ministers attend receptions



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

On behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan attended a reception to celebrate the National Day of the Russia.

Also present was the Ambassador of the Federation Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Victor A. Seleznev.

The reception was held on June 11 at The Empire Hotel & Country Club, Jerudong.



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

On behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair attended a reception to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympic and Para-Olympic Games.

Also present was the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Rob Fenn.

The reception was held on June 12 at The Empire Hotel & Country Club, Jerudong.

On behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Finance II, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman attended a reception to mark the 114th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Independence of the Philippines.

Also present was the Ambassador of the Republic of Philippines to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Nestor Z. Ochoa.

The reception was held on June 20 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

World Blood Donor Day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 24 - More than 12,000 donors were registered last year with the Blood Donor Centre of the Ministry of Health.

The statistic accounts for 3.3 per cent of the total population of the country which means the country has achieved more than the amount required by the World Health Organisation.

The matter was stated by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan during the World Blood Donor Day 2012 celebration held at the Health Promotion Centre with the theme 'Every Blood Donor is A Hero'.

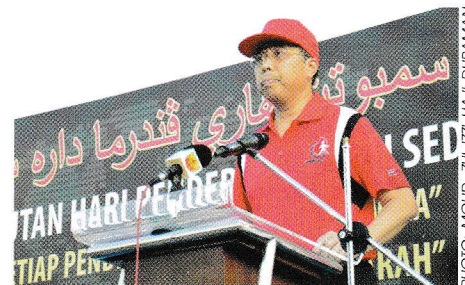
The minister said that the ministry is taking a continuous effort in ensuring

the quality and safety of blood and its related products in the country meets the international standard.

The World Blood Donor Day is celebrated annually on June 14 to increase public awareness on the importance of donating blood voluntarily and honour blood donors.

The event saw the presentation of tokens of appreciation to blood donors who have voluntarily donated blood more than 65 times. The celebration gives inspiration and encouragement to the community to come forward and donate blood.

In conjunction with the celebration, the ministry also held a walkathon at the



Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan during the World Blood Donor Day 2012 at the Health Promotion Centre.

Health Promotion Centre, Commonwealth Drive.

As part of the celebration, a national blood donating campaign will be held across the country.

Brunei Darussalam's Quarterly Gross Domestic Product (Fourth Quarter 2011)

Department of Economic Planning and Development, Prime Minister's Office in their recent media release announced that in the fourth quarter of 2011 (Q4 2011), Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Brunei Darussalam at current prices was estimated at \$5.5 billion compared to \$5.2 billion in Q3 2011.

In terms of GDP growth at constant prices, Q4 2011 recorded a growth of 1.3 per cent. This was mainly attributed to the growth on Non-Oil and Gas sector by 5.1 per cent. However, the Oil & Gas sector fall by 3.5 per cent.

The Agriculture, Forestry & Forestry sector grew by 15.5 per cent due to the increase in Forestry by 41.7 per cent; production of Livestock and Poultry by 24.7 per cent; Vegetables, Fruits and Other Agriculture 15.8 per cent and

Fishery 0.6 per cent.

The Industrial sector fell by 2.6 per cent due the negative growth of Mining sector by 5.1 per cent. Meanwhile the other Industrial sectors increased, with Construction recorded the highest growth of 6.7 per cent, followed by Electricity & Water 1.5 per cent and Manufacturing 0.8 per cent.

The Service sector grew by 5.0 per cent. Trade recorded the highest growth of 9.2 per cent, followed by Private Services 7.9 per cent, Transport & Communication 6.7 per cent, Real Estate & Ownership of Dwellings 5.7 per cent, Government services 3.6 per cent and Finance 1.3 per cent.

By the expenditure approach, GDP at constant process also showed an increase of 1.3 per cent compared to

Q4 2010 (year on year). This is due to the Imports of Goods and Services which recorded the highest growth of 17.4 per cent, followed by Personal Consumption Expenditure 8.8 per cent, Government Consumption Expenditure 3.2 per cent and Capital Formation 3.2 per cent. Meanwhile Export of Goods and Services recorded a decrease of 17.5 per cent.

Note: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a measure of the total value of goods and services produced in particular period after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production.

The full report is available from Department of Economic Planning and Development's website: www.depd.gov.bn.

Consumer Price Index (CPI), March 2012

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March 2012 decreased by 0.3 per cent over February 2012. Meanwhile, the CPI increased by 0.1 per cent in February 2012 over January 2012. This was due to the decreased prices of Transport services particularly maintenance and repair of vehicles; and spare parts and accessories of vehicles.

On the other hand, increases were

recorded in Recreation and Culture due to higher costs of television and radio broadcasting; and Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance as a result of higher costs of furniture and furnishings.

CPI for March 2012 increased by 0.1 per cent compared to March 2011, largely due to the higher index for Recreation and Culture; and Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages.

Note: CPI is measure of price changes of goods and services paid by the consumer in a specific period. The list of goods and services in the CPI is based on the average expenditure per household from the Household Expenditure Survey. The full report is available from Department of Economic Planning and Development's website: www.depd.gov.bn.

SNIPPETS

RBAF and RBPF participate in International Monitoring Team

RIMBA, May 17 - Five personnel of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and a member of the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) joined the 8th Group of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) for the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

A farewell ceremony was held at the Royal Brunei Airforce Base in Rimba. Present was the Acting Minister of Defence, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustappa.

This contingent saw the first participation of RBPF. Participation in overseas operation is an important event for Brunei Darussalam on efforts and regional collaboration in supporting regional peace and stability. It also provides opportunities for RBAF members to gain experiences and exposure from overseas mission such as IMT.

His Royal Highness attends FIFA Congress

BANDAR SERI BEBAWAN, May 21 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) attended the 62nd Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Congress and the Asia Football Confederation (AFC) Continental Meeting in Budapest, Hungary.

The 62nd FIFA Congress gives its full support to the professionalisation of refereeing; and the AFC Continental Meeting among others will discuss AFC Champions League that involved 14 champions from Asia football leagues.

The congress and meeting will be held from May 23 to 26.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- Brunei Darussalam's tropical rainforests are dominated by hardwood species.
- Brunei Industrial Development Authority, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources assist to facilitate the development of small-and-medium-enterprises and regulate the formation and development of cooperatives.
- Facing the South China Sea with a coastline of about 161km, Brunei waters is home to a wide variety of fish inhabitants, including freshwater, brackish and marine species.
- Muara Port is Brunei Darussalam's main port and considered as the Gateway for Trade. It has a handling capacity of 220,000 to 330,000 TEU (20-foot equivalent unit) containers.
- Global Competitive Index Report 2008/2009 – World Economic Forum 2008 ranked Brunei Darussalam's road quality on number 28th amongst 134 major emerging economies; seventh in Asia and third in Southeast Asia.

>> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

- Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.
- Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.
- It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.
- Land size is 5765 sq. km
- Population is estimated at 422,700 people (2012)
- It is divided into four districts – Brunei Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.
- Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.
- Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.
- National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.
- It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

Public Warning: The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam

>> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

- By air - Brunei's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines travels to more than 20 destinations around the world. The airline also has worldwide office for you to book a return flight to Brunei (to know the nearest RBA's office at your place, please log to: www.brunelair.com)
- International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, one of Malaysia's lowest airfare carrier has direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Brunei.
- Arrival by plane would land you to Brunei International Airport (BWN), the sole airport in the nation.
- For those who enjoy journey by sea, you can reach Brunei by boat or ferry. The main ferry terminal in Brunei is the Serasa Ferry Terminal at Muara. You can catch a ferry from Labuan, Sabah or Lawas and Sundar, both in Sarawak, a state of the neighbouring country, Malaysia. Another option is via a boat from Limbang, Sarawak which will arrive at the jetty around Jalan Residency area in the Capital.
- You would have two options of entry point to Brunei by land transport. You can enter through the Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait District or the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post in Brunei Muara District. The Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait is the entry point for those from Miri, Sarawak and Kalimantan. While the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post is the entrance for those coming from Limbang, Sarawak and Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.