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His Majesty visits Republic of Singapore

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 7 - 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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, consented to depart for Republic of Singapore.

Accompanying Their Majesties were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malek; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah and His Majesty's grandson, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muhammad Za'eem as well as other members of the royal family.

Before leaving Istana Nurul Iman, a doa selamat was recited by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doktor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

Present at His Majesty The Sultan's Flight Hangar at Rimba to bid farewell were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-At-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Nor'ain; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Nasibah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Jefriah, as well as other members of the royal family.

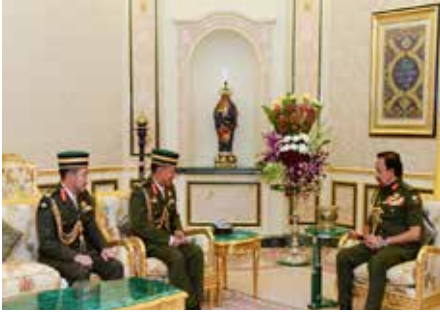
Also present to bid farewell were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Cheterias, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Privy Council, Deputy Ministers, the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and the Commissioner of Police as well as their spouses.



HIS Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the 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, consented to depart for Republic of Singapore.



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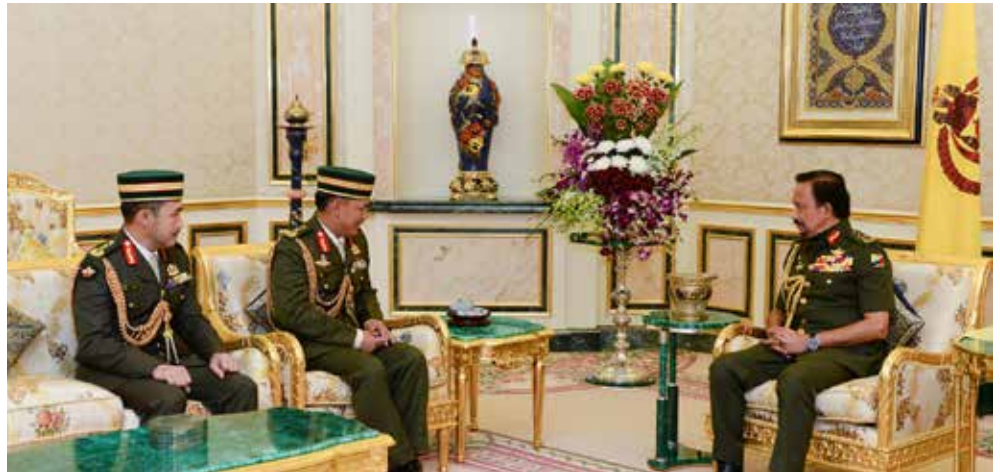


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Their Majesties receive audiences

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 in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

Major General Dato Paduka Awang Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, the retiring Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), who was accompanied by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Dato Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah, the new RBAF Commander on January 30.



Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Hishammuddin bin Tun Hussein, Malaysian Defence Minister on February 3.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman on January 30 from:

Datin Nurhayana Janis binti Abdullah, the spouse of the retiring RBAF Commander who was accompanied by the spouse of the new RBAF Commander.



His Royal Highness receives audience

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office consented to receive an audience at Qasr Al-Meezaan on January 30 from:

Major General Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, the retiring Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), who was accompanied by the new Commander of RBAF, Pehin Dato Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah.



His Royal Highness exchange views with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos

MUSCAT, February 4 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) consented to an audience with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Said held at Bait Al Barakah.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was welcomed by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Said. His Royal Highness and His Majesty Sultan Qaboos also exchanged views on the bilateral relations of both countries as well as regional and international affairs.

Accompanying His Royal Highness were His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad al Rumhi, Minister of Oil and Gas as the accompanying Minister; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office; and His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Besar bin Haji Abu Bakar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office was welcomed by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Said.

His Royal Highness visits Muscat, Oman

MUSCAT, February 3 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman arrived at Muscat, Oman for a four-day official visit.

Accompanying His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness were Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah binti His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

Upon arrival at the Muscat International Airport, His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness were greeted by His Highness Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmoud Al-Said, Deputy



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office consented to receive a visit from the people of Brunei Darussalam in the Sultanate of Oman accompanied by Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim.

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His Royal Highness visits Muscat, Oman (continued)

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Prime Minister of Sultanate of Oman Ministers Council; His Excellency Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, and His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad al Rumhi, Minister of Oil and Gas as the Minister in attendance.

Also in attendance to welcome Their Royal Highnesses were His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Besar bin Haji Abu Bakar, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Oman and a representative from Diwan Royal Court.

His Royal Highness and His Highness Sayyid Fahad then proceeded to the dais to receive a Salute of Honour. The national anthems of Brunei Darussalam and Sultanate of Oman were also played. His Royal Highness then consented to inspect the Guard of Honour.

Their Royal Highnesses were then introduced to the Mission of Honour; His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed Hashil Al Maskri, the Ambassador of Oman to Brunei Darussalam, Lieutenant Colonel Suroor Mohammed Al Hadhrami, ADC to His Royal Highness, Mohamed Nasser Al Dhuli and Naseemah Ibrahim A'Shekhaniah from Royal Protocol, ministers, Oman military brigadiers and foreign ambassadors.

Meanwhile, His Highness Sayyid Fahad was introduced to members of the official delegation of Brunei Darussalam. His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness and His Highness Sayyid Fahad heading to Grand Hall at VIP Terminal before leaving for Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Upon arrival at the hotel, His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness were greeted by the General Manager of the hotel, Garry Friend and were introduced to the hotel staff. The people of Brunei Darussalam who were in Oman whether on duty, undergoing training or studying were also present with their families to honour the departure of His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness.

Also accompanying the departure of His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness during the visit was Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong.

According to the press release of the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness' official visit to the Sultanate of Oman was hosted by Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office was greeted by His Highness Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmoud Al-Said, Deputy Prime Minister of Sultanate of Oman Ministers Council.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman receiving greetings from the people of Brunei Darussalam's in Muscat, Oman upon arrival at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

of the Sultanate of Oman, His Highness Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmoud Al Said. Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman established diplomatic relations on 24 March 1984. The Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Muscat was established on 1 February 1980.

The Sultanate of Oman established the Embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan on 25 August 1986. The various fields of

cooperation between the two countries have been developed including trade and investment, oil and gas, education, air services, information and religious affairs.

In the field of education, Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) in 2007.

His Royal Highness attends Oman vision 2040 briefing



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah attending a briefing on Planning and Development of Sultanate of Oman.

MUSCAT, February 4 – 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 (PMO), consented to attend The Planning and Development of Sultanate of Oman Ceremony held in Grand Hyatt Hotel's Special Room.

The briefing was presented by His Excellency Talal Al Rahbi, Deputy Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Miss Fatma Al Wahibi, Director General of Development Planning.

During the briefing, His Royal Highness was informed on the planning of various aspects of development including priorities in social progress as well as training and development of human resources; shared some of the achievements and several mega projects that have been planned to achieve the goal of Oman Vision 2040.

Accompanying His Royal Highness at the event was His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad al Rumhi, Minister of Oil and Gas as Minister-in-Attendance; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong Deputy Minister in PMO; and His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Besar bin Haji Abu Bakar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman.



His Royal Highness being briefed by His Excellency Talal Al Rahbi, Deputy Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning on several mega projects.



His Royal Highness being introduced to members of the Supreme Council for Planning of the Sultanate of Oman.

His Royal Highness holds bilateral meeting



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) welcomed by Deputy Prime Minister, His Highness Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmoud Al Said upon arrival at His Highness's office.



His Royal Highness and Deputy Prime Minister, His Highness Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmoud Al Said exchanging views on efforts to enhance cooperation.

MUSCAT, February 4 - 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 (PMO) consented to hold a bilateral meeting with His Highness Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers held at His Highness's Office.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was welcomed to the meeting room and greeted by several ministers of the Sultanate of Oman. During the meeting, His Royal Highness and His

Highness exchanged views on efforts to enhance cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman and matters relating to regional and international affairs.

Accompanying His Royal Highness at the event was His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad al Rumhi, Minister of Oil and Gas as the Minister-in-Attendance; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Deputy Minister at PMO and His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Besar bin Haji Abu Bakar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman.

Their Royal Highnesses attend official dinner ceremony



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 consented to attend the Official Dinner Ceremony hosted by His Highness Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmoud Al Said, the Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers of the Sultanate of Oman.

MUSCAT, February 4 - 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 and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman attended separate official dinner ceremonies.

His Royal Highness consented to attend the reception hosted by His Highness Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmoud Al Said, the Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers of the Sultanate of Oman held at Qantab Ballroom, Al Bustan Palace Hotel.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was greeted by His Highness Sayyid Fahad and introduced to the guests of the Sultanate of Oman, while His Highness was introduced to the delegation of Brunei Darussalam.

Accompanying His Royal Highness was His Excellency Dr. Mo-



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman attended a separate Official Dinner Ceremony at the Royal Opera House Muscat and was greeted by Her Highness Sayyidah Berthe Fahad Al Said who hosted the ceremony.

ammed bin Hamad al Rumhi, the Minister of Oil and Gas, as the Minister-in-Attendance; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Besar bin Haji Abu Bakar, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman.

Meanwhile, the arrival of Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman at the Royal Opera House Muscat was greeted by Her Highness Sayyidah Berthe Fahad Al Said, who hosted the official dinner, along with Her Highness's daughters, Her Highness Sayyida Mona and Her Highness Sayyida Aliya.

Also present at the dinner were several ministers and senior government officers of the Sultanate of Oman. Accompanying Her Royal Highness was Datin Hajah Norbayura binti Haji Lamit, the spouse of the Brunei Darussalam Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Sultanate of Oman.

His Royal Highness, Her Royal Highness attend luncheon

MUSCAT, February 5 - 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 and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman attended a Luncheon on board a ship at Al Mukalla Port.

Accompanying His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness were Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

Upon arrival at Al Mukalla Port, Their Royal Highnesses were welcomed by Commander Abdullah Nasser Al Shabibi, Deputy Commander of Al Mukalla, and consented to board the Royal Yacht 'AL MURRIH', which then left the port.

Also accompanying Their Royal Highnesses were His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad al Rumhi, the Minister of



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 and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman on board the Royal Yacht 'AL MURRIH' together with Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah.

Oil and Gas as Minister in Attendance; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Excellency Dato

Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Besar bin Haji Abu Bakar, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman and spouse.



Their Royal Highnesses were welcomed by Commander Abdullah Nasser Al Shabibi, Deputy Commander of Al Mukalla (left and right).

His Royal Highness visits Muscat



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 (PMO), General of the Royal Armed Forces Brunei (RBAF) consented to visit Special Forces Headquarters.

MUSCAT, February 5 - 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 (PMO) consented to visit Sultan Special Forces Headquarters. His Royal Highness was greeted by Brigadier General Amir bin Salim bin Mubarak Al Amri, Commander of the Sultan Special Forces upon arrival.

His Royal Highness was then briefed on Sultan Special Forces's structure and organisation and observed military equipment and visited the shooting range to observe the military demonstration. His Royal Highness then ended the visit and consented to receive a *pesambah* from Brigadier General Amir bin Salim bin Mubarak Al Amri. His Royal Highness also consented to award a plaque to him.



A part of military demonstrations shown during His Royal Highness's visit to Sultan Special Forces Headquarters.

Accompanying His Royal Highness was His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad al Rumhi, Minister of Oil and Gas as the Minister in Attendance; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Deputy Minister at PMO; His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Besar bin Haji Abu Bakar, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam; and Brigadier General Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Yusof bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Deputy Commander of the RBAF.

His Royal Highness also consented to visit Sultan Qaboos University where he was greeted by Her Highness Sayyida Muna bint Fahad Al Said, Assistant Vice Chancellor of External Cooperation; Prof. Amer Ali Al Rawas, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Post-graduate Study and Research; and Dr. Said bin Ali Al Yahyaee, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Community Service upon arrival at the College of Engineering.

His Royal Highness then visited several laboratories such as NANO laboratories, Industrial Engineering laboratories, Research and Applied Analysis Unit at the Science College, as well as a visit to the College of Science Museum.

Accompanying His Royal Highness were His Excellency Mohammed bin Hamad al Rumhi Minister of Oil and Gas as Minister in Attendance; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong Deputy Minister at PMO, and His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Besar bin Haji Abu Bakar, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam.

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His Royal Highness visiting several laboratories such as NANO laboratories, Industrial Engineering labs, Research and Applied Analysis Unit at the College of Science.

His Royal Highness visits Muscat (continued)



His Royal Highness was briefed on the parts of the laboratory equipment.

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Continuing the visit on February 6, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman, consented to watch a performance at Royal Opera House Muscat.

Upon arrival, Their Royal Highnesses were greeted by His Highness Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers of the Sultanate of Oman and spouse, Her Highness Sayyidah Berthe Fahad Al Said and His Highness's daughter and several ministers of the Sultanate of Oman.

Their Royal Highnesses consented to visit some places in the Royal Opera House Muscat. During the performance, Their Royal Highnesses enjoyed the classical music performed by the pianist, Maurizio Pollini and Conductor Gianluigi Gelmetti with the Mozart Orchestra.

After the performance Their Royal Highnesses then proceeded to Al Angham Restaurant for Dinner Ceremony. Accompanying Their Royal Highnesses were His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad al Rumhi, the Ministers of Oil and Gas as the Minister in Attendance; Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Deputy Minister at PMO and His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Besar bin Haji Abu Bakar, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman.



Their Royal Highnesses being greeted by His Highness Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers of the Sultanate of Oman.



Their Royal Highnesses viewing several exhibits in the Royal Opera House Muscat.

Brunei DPMM FC holds friendly match



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and The Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah during the match.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Muntaqim during the match.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and The Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman consented to attend a friendly match between Brunei DPMM FC and Kelantan FA, the winner of

Malaysia Cup 2013, which ended in a 0-0 draw.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Muntaqim. The match took place at Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium, Berakas.

His Royal Highness visits Royal Cavalry



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Muntaqim and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah while watching the performance at the Royal Cavalry.

MUSCAT, February 5 - Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman visited the Royal Cavalry in Madinat Al Adiyat, Seeb.

Accompanying Her Royal Highness were Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Muntaqim ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah binti His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

Upon arrival, Her Royal Highness was greeted by the Royal Cavalry Commander, Brigadier Abdul Razak Alshahwarzi and

proceeded to watch the horse-riding performance, polo game by youth athletes, horsemanship and the parade of traditional horse carriages.

Shortly before departing, Her Royal Highness consented to receive a pesambah presented by Brigadier Abdul Razak Alshahwarzi.

Sultanate of Oman has a long history of cavalry and is very well known with the preservation and breeding of native Arabia horses.

The country also has a high reputation and became the first Middle East country to become a full member of the 'World Arabia Horse Organization' (WAHO). Among the activities that Royal Cavalry participated were national and international horse racing competitions, as well as Arabian horses performances.



One of the performances during the visit to Royal Cavalry.

NFABD members urged to strengthen integrity of association

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 4 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) urged all members of the NFABD to be able to communicate and work together on their respective roles more openly and efficiently.

His Royal Highness in his sabda (royal speech) also encouraged them to channel the views, opinions and recommendations to the secretariat NFABD or EXCO at any time within the year if it deems good and can help smooth out any related matters thus strengthening the integrity of NFABD.

His Royal Highness said, even though there were many progress achieved by NFABD there was still more to be improved both in terms of the direction of visions and missions, planning and implementation as well as in terms of administration.

His Royal Highness highlighted these during the NFABD Ordinary Congress held at NFABD House, Jalan Pusat Persidangan. Whereas on the NFABD Secretariat matters, His Royal Highness stated that it is very important and needs to improve its capabilities



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) delivering the sabda at the NFABD Ordinary Congress held at NFABD House, Jalan Pusat Persidangan, Berakas.

ties to ensure the planning and implementation can be applied more effectively and efficiently.

S League-DPMM FC football fanfare 2014

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 9 February - Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah consented to participate in S League-DPMM FC Football Fanfare 2014 at Jerudong Mini Stadium.

The football fanfare was one of the activities to enliven the S League Championship where the DPMM Football Club will join the tournament for the season. S League Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Lim Chin expressed his pride for the continuous support of the best club in Brunei Darussalam in participating and challenging the team in S League.

A total of 21 teams for players under 12 years old participated in matches divided into seven groups. BSSSA 'A' team won the championship and Puspa Grassroot 'A' won as the runner-up and third place was JIS 'A' and BSSSA 'B'.

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim bin Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak (Dr.) Kemaludin Al-Haj, Vice-Chairman of DPMM Football Club was also introduced to the players and



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Muntaqim ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah consented to receive participation medals from S League CEO, Lim Chin.

then presented a souvenir to the Chief Executive Officer of S League.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Muntaqim consented to take a group photo.

Her Royal Highness attends Japanese Traditional Music Concert



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar during the Japanese Traditional Music Concert.

JERUDONG, February 8 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade consented to attend the Japanese Traditional Music Concert at Jerudong International School.

Upon arrival, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna was greeted by His Excellency Kenichi Suganuma, Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam. Also in attendance was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

His Excellency Kenichi Suganuma explained that the concert 'ONE ASIA - AUN & HIDE: Taiko Fusion Music from Japan' was held in conjunction with the 30th Anniversary Celebration of Brunei Darussalam and Japan Diplomatic Relations. Concerts featuring artists from Japan and Brunei Darussalam presented the different ideas of music and cultures in attracting viewers to appreciate the unique performances.

Cultural performance by Senandung Budaya Group as well as three Japanese artists also performed in the concert. 'AUN' is a

group of twins named Ryohei and Kohei Inoue, while 'HIDE' is the abbreviation for Hideyuki Saito who was once a drummer for the 'KODO' group in 1987.

Also in attendance were the son of Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Wadood Bolkiah and spouse, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and spouse, and Datin Paduka Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports were among those who attended the concert.

Brunei Darussalam and Japan have established friendly relations through various cultural exchange between society, in addition to further strengthen the good relations between the two countries by providing more opportunities for cultural exchange. Cooperation and friendship between the two countries has become stronger since the establishment of diplomatic relations on 2 April 1984, which continues to strengthen and expand in various fields including trade and investment, education, culture, youth, industrial, agricultural and health.



Culture performance by the Senandung Budaya Group.

DPMM football club signing ceremony



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim bin Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak (Dr.) Kemaludin Al-Haj, Deputy Chairman of the DPMM Football Club witnessing the signing ceremony.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 6 - DPMM Football Club held a Contract Signing Ceremony with players and sponsors of the Singapore Football League Championship 2014 (S League) at the Centrepoint Hotel in Gadong.

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim bin Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak (Dr.) Ke-

maludin Al-Haj, Deputy Chairman of the DPMM Football Club consented to attend the signing ceremony

A total of 23 players have been selected and preceded to sign the contract which they will then put on the DPMM Football Club jersey. On behalf of DPMM Football Club the signing was represented by Pengiran Haji Muhd. Waslimin bin Pengiran Setia Jaya Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin,

Club Manager and Awang Md. Ali bin Haji Momin, Team Manager.

The event then continued with the signing of the sponsorship contract between DPMM Football Club and several companies. The DPMM Football Club was represented by the Club Manager, Pengiran Haji Muhd Waslimin and Marketing Manager, Awang Haji Momin bin Haji Md. Jaafar.

The signing companies for the sponsorship are Mitsubishi Corporation; Brunei Shell Marketing Co. Sdn. Bhd; Maju Motors Sdn. Bhd.; DST Group Sdn. Bhd.; Royal Brunei Airlines Sdn. Bhd.; Sri Sentosa Sdn. Bhd. and Sport Partnership Pte. Ltd.

According to Awang Md. Ali, the signing of the contract was for 23 players comprising 19 local players and four foreign players. He hoped that the signing would further strengthen the DPMM Football Club, as well as to get a better position than last year's position and try to win at least two trophies.

The opening match of the DPMM Football Club will begin on February 22 on the outside court against Albirex Niigata team and on February 28 play home against the Warriors FC.



Club Manager and Team Manager of DPMM Football Club during the contract signing ceremony for the DPMM Football Club 2014.

Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah holds Maulud celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 30 - Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah School (YSHHB) celebrated the Maulud Celebration of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam for the Year 1435 Hijrah which was held at the school in Jalan Kebangsaan. The event was attended by over a thousand students from Year 1 to Year 11 as well as the teaching staff.

Also in attendance were the grandsons of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak 'Abdul Raqiib bin Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak 'Abdul Hafeez bin Pengiran Anak Khairul Khalil.

Present as the guest of honour was Pengiran Haji Anuar bin Pengiran Seri Indera Pengiran Haji Ismail, as the Chairman of Parents / Guardians Association of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah School.

The ceremony was enlivened by the presentation of Dikir Marhaban presented by a combination of religious teachers and Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah School Teachers followed by a three-time selawat recital.

The highlight of the event was the mass procession around the school grounds and selawat upon the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam.

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Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah holds Maulud celebration (continued)



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak 'Abdul Raqiib bin Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak 'Abdul Hafeez bin Pengiran Anak Khairul Khalil, the grandsons of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the mass procession.



Grandsons of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to join Dikir Marhaban.

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The event organised by a collaboration between secondary schools, primary schools and Yayasan Religious School, among

others, aimed at celebrating the festivals of Islam, especially among the school communities, as well as to create close collaboration between the three schools and the Parents / Guardian Association of the school.

Flag hoisting ceremony



Yang Berhormat Minister of Education handing over the giant-sized national flag to the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) at the Flag Hoisting Ceremony.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 9 - A flag hoisting ceremony was held in the open space of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 30th National Day celebration.

Present as the guest of honour was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Education.

The ceremony began with a recitation of Surah Al-Faatihah and a doa selamat led by Mudim Haji Amran bin Haji Mohd. Salleh, Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque Affairs Officer (SOAS).

In his speech, Awang Haji Mohd. Rozan bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunos, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) as the event's chairperson said, this year's celebration was a special occasion because with the permission of Allah SWT, Brunei celebrated its 30 years of independence.

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The giant sized national flag of Brunei Darussalam being raised by the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN).

Flag hoisting ceremony (continued)



The Minister of Education handing over the flag in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam 30th National Day celebration Belait District Officer, Awang Haji Haris bin Othman.



Minister of Education handing over the poster in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam 30th National Day celebration to Temburong District Officer, Awang Ajmin bin Haji Meludin.

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As a continuation of the 30 years of sovereignty as an independent nation, the permanent secretary revealed that the theme of the National Day celebration was 'Generasi Berwawasan' (Visionary Generation) which encourages the people to move forward and ready to face the National Vision 2035.

The permanent secretary also explained that 'Generasi Berwawasan' gave the impression that the country has planned a vision as the leading path in shaping and developing Brunei Darussalam. The hoisting of the national flag was not just a sign of the commencement date of the National Day celebration but it is a symbol of our appreciation to our beloved homeland.

He called on all citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam to equally participate in flag hoisting at their respective homes according to the guidelines set by the Royal Customs and Traditions Department. The involvement in equally respecting the national flag is not enough by just hoisting of the national flag alone, but it also needs to be filled with a passion for the country and a deep patriotic spirit, said the permanent secretary.

He hoped that community leaders will continue the ceremony of its kind in the district and their respective villages with the involvement of villagers especially youths and teenagers, whom should be exposed to the essence of the National Vision and on the sametime, they need to be strengthened with Islamic religious education towards realising a Zikir Nation.

He highlighted that the youth, as the heirs of the people and the nation, must instill the spirit of preserving, upholding and protecting the integrity and the honour of the national flag of Brunei Darussalam as the dignity of the people and nation.

The ceremony proceeded with the handing over of the giant national flag by Minister of Education to the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) for the Flag Hoisting Ceremony followed by the national anthem by a combined choir Berakas Secondary School, Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin College and Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Masna Secondary School, accompanied by the Royal Brunei Police Force band.

The Minister of Education then presented the flags and posters in conjunction with the Brunei Darussalam 30th National Day Celebration to district officials in all four districts.

Among those present at the ceremony were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Development.

Also present were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentara Istiadat Diraja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin bin Pengiran Paduka Tuan Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar the Grand Chamberlain; Members of the Legislative Council; Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs; Yang Dimuliakan Pehin-Pehin, Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and senior government officials.

The flag hoisting ceremony marked the beginning of flag hoisting in residential houses, government and private buildings across the country in conjunction with the 30th National Day celebration.

Marine sector potential for economic diversity

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 6 – The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has identified the marine sector as a potential area for economic diversification. Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Education said that the Marine Department is now in the process of planning the Brunei Maritime Masterplan which includes feasibility studies and environmental impact assessment on several projects under the plan.

The minister explained that in addition to the data from the Department of Energy in the Prime Minister's Department shows that over 2,000 jobs were offered within the sector, which serve the oil and gas industry and only 10 per cent of the human resources

were filled by locals. According to the minister, the sector will be more developed with increased offshore activities, both of which serve the current results and for future water exploration.

BMA's current information provide available industry to locals as a professional maritime and recognized seamen by Maritime Organisation (IMO) to help increase the needs created with growth and new initiatives in the local and regional maritime sectors, explained the minister at the signing ceremony of the Service Agreement Between the Department of Technical Education, the Ministry of Education and the International Polytechnic of Singapore (SPI).

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Marine sector potential for economic diversity (continued)



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar, Minister of Education and Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah, Minister of Communications witnessing the Signing Ceremony of Service Agreement Between the Department of Technical Education, Ministry of Education and International Polytechnic of Singapore.

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The minister also said that the maritime industry would have to play its role as a profit-generating job for graduates, as well as playing a key role in their training while they were at BMA. All relevant government agencies will need to work with the marine industry to relate its needs and wants to achieve national aspirations in marine sector growth with local containers.

The Minister of Education also mentioned that Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) will assist the Ministry of Education in creating the BMA, which will offer a range of basic qualifications for the maritime industry training efficiency. Signing on behalf of Technical Education Department was its Acting Director, Dr. Chin Wei Keh, while SPI was signed by its General Manager, Mr. Lee Leck Seng.

In the 30-month agreement beginning in February, SMA and BMA will work closely, among others, through consultation services and training sessions such as providing training from levels II to IV to create and improve the training level II to IV at BMA which will enable the award of the Class 5 Efficiency Certificate

for 'Engineering Watch Deep Sea Voyage' officers and Class 3 for 'Navigation Watch Deep Sea Voyage' officers, which include curriculum development, teaching materials and other needs of the training resources.

Among others that are included in the training are basic job security and security training programmes, deck positioning programmes, machinery position programmes, programmes for officers of 'Engineering Watch Near Coastal Voyage', 'Engineering Watch Deep Sea Voyage Conversion', 'Navigation Watch Near Coastal Voyage' and 'Navigation Sea Deep Watch Voyage Conversion'. The agreement also contains train-the-trainers and maritime education and training quality assurance system.

Witnessing the ceremony was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar, Minister of Education; Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Communications; His Excellency Jaya Ratnam, High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei, as well as senior officials from relevant agencies.

Imams need to possess respectable morals

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 4 - An imam who serves as a religious leader should have the special characteristic that distinguishes them from other members of the community, especially their qaryah members.

Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Religious Affairs said that in the community life, Islam suggests to emphasises to keep a good relationship with Allah SWT and good relations among people where a good relationship with Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala will be achieved through noble character.

Speaking as the guest of honour at the Opening Ceremony of the Mosque Officers Excellence Seminar at Centrepont Hotel Gadong, the minister underlined the importance of having good morals because morality is our personal reflection.

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Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Religious Affairs delivering the Keynote Address.

Imams need to possess respectable morals (continued)



Minister of Religious Affairs (Center) during the opening of the Mosque Officers Excellence Seminar at Centrepoint Hotel Gadong.

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An imam must have a good and praiseworthy moral character because

it would strengthen the interpersonal relationships among people who consequently would be able to produce easy-going attributes blessed by Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala.

Among the things that will lead to the success of the mosque are mosque officers and imam to constantly improve their reading quality from time to time, whether in prayer, reading prayers, reading Al-Qur'an, including improving reading quality and addressing the sermon on Friday prayers, not forgetting the call to the prayer so that it sounds fluent and melodious, said the minister.

The minister then emphasised that it is very important as it is one of the factors which will attract the people and more members of the community interested in visiting and joining the congregation in the mosque.

Touching on the presence of duty, the minister highlighted that the matter needs to be given attention and adhered to,

especially at times of the fardhu prayers five times a day in which the call to prayer needs to be heard in order to avoid criticism and conversation among the congregation and the community.

The minister also outlined the profession as a, imam in the civil service where the chosen imam was usually from various academic backgrounds with varying salaries according to their respective divisions as well as the advantages and facilities provided.

According to the minister, an imam is also known as a Mosque Officer because according to the interpretation of the terms of work reference for Mosque Officers 1996/1416 it was stated that Mosque Officers include imam, bilal and marbut and any person acting or carrying out their duties for the post.

The minister also stated that there is also the position of Mosque Affairs Officer in mosques where this position is also categorised as Mosque Officer and known as

Increasing health quality of people



Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd. Yusof chairing the Muzakarah Session with Members of the Legislative Council (LegCo), held at Al 'Afiah Hall, Ministry of Health.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 8 - The Ministry of Health will continue to implement various programmes and initiatives through strategic planning solely aimed at improving the health and well-being of the citizens and the people in the country.

Among the initiatives that have been implemented include the development of health infrastructure, improving and upgrading existing facilities such as hospital buildings, health centers, health clinics as well as laboratories and facilities related to healthcare services within this country in phases according to priority, explained Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Health while chairing the Muzakarah (Discussion) Session With Members of the Legislative Council (LegCo) held in Al 'Afiah Hall, Ministry of Health, Berakas.

The minister also mentioned on the importance of health to support and realise the Brunei Vision 2035, that is to make Brunei Darussalam known worldwide with the quality of life of the people by practicing 'Universal Health Coverage' policy.

Through the concept, the ministry will continue to ensure that all levels of society and the people in this country receive comprehensive health care, holistic, easily accessible and fair. The minister also emphasised on shared responsibility on health care in the country that is, in particular, all stakeholders including every individual among all levels of society in the country.

He said that the cooperation of all levels of society, including the LegCo Members are very welcome to equally improve the quality of health and well-being of citizens and residents in the country. Meanwhile, the minister also shared the development of medical services throughout the year 2013.

Among them were Kidney Transfer Programme; Clinical procedures using a new technique called 'Renal Artery Denervation' for the treatment of patients with chronic high blood pressure; 'Insulin Infusion Pump' therapy for diabetic patients as well as the treatment programme for patients with hearing impairments. Bone Anchored Hearing Aids (BAHA - inserted direct in-ear hearing aids) will be introduced shortly.

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Increasing health quality of people (continued)

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The minister also addressed on measures to overcome the challenges of increasing non-communicable diseases in the country, the Ministry of Health has formed a strategy of the Brunei Darussalam Multi-Sector Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2013-2018 (Bru-MAP NCD 2013-2018).

The strategy plan aims to address the trend of non-communicable diseases that are increasingly contagious from year to year, setting targets for reducing risk factors and consequently the number of deaths caused by these diseases.

The minister also touched on the Implementation of the Brunei Darussalam Healthcare Information System (Bru-

HIMS) which has started since 2012 and has operated in all government hospitals as well as health centers and clinics nationwide. Present in the Muzakarah Session was Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abd. Salam bin Abd. Momin, Clerk II (Second) to LegCo; Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Norlila binti Dato Paduka Haji Abd Jalil, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health; Deputy Permanent Secretary, Senior Special Task Officer and senior officials from the Ministry of Health.

During the session, a briefing on 'The Responsibility and Role of the Ministry of Health in Supporting National Vision 2035 to Strengthen the National Healthcare System and Services' was presented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health followed by a question and answer session from LegCo Members.

Ministry of Finance launches EPG System



Acting Minister of Finance II (Second), Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Bahrin bin Abdullah launching the E-Payment Gateway service.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 29 January - The Ministry of Finance through the Treasury Department is implementing the E-Payment Gateway (EPG) System Project in line with the wishes of the Government of His Majesty to expand its e-government services and the rapid development of information-communications technologies. The implementation of this project directly reflects the development and enhancement of financial services infrastructure in the country.

The launching of the EPG System was officiated by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Bahrin bin Abdullah, Acting Minister of Finance II at the Theater Hall, Ministry of Finance Building.

Dayang Rokiah binti Haji Badar, Acting Accountant General as the chairperson of the ceremony explained that the system was a starting point towards a positive transformation of the way people in this country does business with the government.

Members of the public do not need to queue at the payment counter as they can make payments online through the websites of government agencies involved, internet banking and any banking channels offered by each participating financial institution in the project.

For the first time, four major banks in the country have been linked through this system to enable payment information to be sent electronically to the Government and at the same time, the system has linked three government agencies that receive payments from the public and companies.

In addition, the customers of these government agencies will be

able to view their bills and the latest outstanding balance through the channels offered, which are available at Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) and the Baiduri Bank Internet Banking. She stated that with the continued support and cooperation of The Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation, Standard Chartered Bank, Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam and Baiduri Bank, more functions and facilities to be introduced in the future to provide a better, easier and efficient payment process.

At this stage, the EPG system has linked the Post Office, the Ministry of Finance's Revenue Division and the Department of Electrical Services, with four banks and the Treasury Accounting and Financial Information System (TAFIS).

She added that looking at the demand to connect a total of more than 60 government agencies which produce bills to customers, this system was designed in a way which would enable integration with all the agencies concerned.

She stated that the EPG system has proved extremely reliable, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As a result of this project, the government has succeeded in developing a reliable, secure and more challenging system payment gateways in other countries.

The EPG system's long term programme will then continue to be launched to all relevant agencies in the country including all banks, in a 3-5 year programme of continuous system development, where a fully integrated e-payment system for the whole country will be achieved for the benefit of the people and visitors to the country.

Career Fair opens job opportunities



Tutong District Officer, Awang Wardi bin Haji Mohammad Ali visiting one of the booths offering job opportunities in the Tutong District in the Mini Job Fair.

TUTONG, February 4 - The Local Employment Agency and Labour Development (APTK) known as JobCentre Brunei, Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE) held a two-day Career Fair or 'Brunei Mini Job Fair 2014 @ Tutong', Tutong Community Council Complex.

Tutong District Officer Awang Wardi bin Haji Mohammad Ali in his speech as guest of honor officiating the event, fully supports the diligent efforts undertaken by APTK which he believes is a very accurate and appropriate approach to the establishment of the agency, which among others, serves as a government initiative to deal with employment affairs for local job seekers, as well as facilitating employers to obtain local workers.

Through information obtained from the APTK, he said, the total number of statistically registered local job-seekers and actively renew their registration at APTK until December 2013 was a total of 5,290 people.

"A total of 753 local job-seekers are from Tutong District, 3,519 from Brunei and Muara District, 704 from Belait District and 314 from Temburong District. Local job seekers in the Tutong District registered in APTK are the second largest compared to other districts," he explained.

On this occasion, he called on all registered and newly registered local job seekers to start working together to bring together the golden opportunity offered through the two-day career party.

Meanwhile, the head of APTK, Haji Awang Afero Eswandy bin Haji Mohamad said that the Tutong District was the start of the 'Brunei Mini Job Fair 2014' initiative where it focused on companies in the Tutong District.

"Besides the career exhibition, the 'Brunei Mini Job Fair 2014' also includes registration for APTK Cards, career workshops, open interviews and so on," he added.

The willingness of several agencies and companies to make this event a success, he said, is a legitimate effort to be exemplified by agencies and other corporate sectors.

In addition to facilitating local jobseekers, this 'downhill' effort will also bring companies and employers closer to the public and enhance positive image amongst the company's management staff and potential employees.

Overall, a total of 14 local companies from different industries are attending this career fair offering 400 vacancies ranging from various approvals ie from non-graduates to degree level.

At the same time, open-ended interviews are also held throughout the event in their respective exhibitions.

This kind of job fair is the first time held for 2014 conducted by APTK and JPKE.

This year APTK and JPKE have taken a new approach to addressing the needs of local and business locators by holding Mini Job Fairs in other districts as well as several sub-districts in the Brunei-Muara District according to certain zones and also the Job Fair held at the end of the year.

UBD signs MoU with IMRE



SIGNING on behalf of UBD was the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research Office (GSRO), Professor David Young, while IMRE also signed by its Executive Director, Professor T. S. Andy Hor.

TUNGKU LINK, February 3. - Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Materials and Engineering Research (IMRE) from the Republic of Singapore.

The signing ceremony took place at the Institute of Leadership, Innovation and Advancement (ILIA) Building, UBD, here.

Signing on behalf of UBD was Dean of Postgraduate and Research Office (GSRO), Professor David Young, while IMRE is represented by its Executive Director, Professor T. S. Andy Hor.

Present to witness the signing was the High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Jaya Ratnam and Assistant Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Associate Professor Dr. Azman bin Ahmad.

IMRE is a Science and Engineering Research Center (SERC) research institute under the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A * STAR) which houses various state of the art equipment for research on materials including development, processing and characterization.

In addition, IMRE also conducts various researches including new materials for organic solar cells, photovoltaics, printed electronics, catalytic, bio-mimetics, sustainable materials and atoms technology.

The research institute actively cooperates with other research institutes, universities, public bodies and large sections covering global and local industry companies.

Before the MoU was signed, UBD has already established existing collaborative activities with IMRE. In the academic field, several of Ph.D students of UBD were at IMRE undertaking research in photovoltaic projects.

With the signing of the MoU, it is expected to continue to enhance and facilitate the collaborative research project between UBD and IMRE, as well as enabling UBD researchers to utilise IMRE laboratory equipment and methods.

Q3 2013 GDP

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 3 - In the third quarter of 2013 (Q3 2013), Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Brunei Darussalam at current prices was estimated at BND4,657.3 million compared to BND5,157.9 million in Q3 2012. From the terms of GDP growth at a fixed price, Q3 2013 recorded a decrease of 3.9 per cent year-on-year (yoy) due to a decrease in the Oil & Gas Sector by 11.7 per cent (yoy).

However, the Non Oil & Gas Sector continued to record a growth of 2.4 percent (y-o-y). While the Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries Sector in Q3 2013 increased by 1.0 per cent (yoy) due to the growth of the Agriculture sector by 3.3 per cent (yoy) after a decrease of 4.1 per cent (yoy) in Q2 2013. Meanwhile, the Industrial Sector in Q3 2013 decreased by 9.7 per cent (yoy) after growth of less than 0.05 per cent in Q2 2013 due to negative growth in the Mining sector by 17.2 per cent (yoy).

In addition, the Construction Sector continued to increase by 3.5 per cent (y-o-y), followed by Manufacturing Sector by 3.1 per cent (y-o-y) and Electricity & Water by 1.9 per cent (y-o-y). The Services sector continued to expand by 2.4 per cent (yoy) after increasing 4.3 per cent in Q2 2013, while the Residential & Owned Home Ownership recorded the highest increase of 4.8 per cent, followed by Private Services 3.6 per cent (yoy), Finance 2.8 per cent (yoy) percent (yoy), Transport & Communication 2.1 percent (yoy) and Government Services 1.5 percent (yoy).

According to the expenditure approach, Imports of Goods and Services recorded the highest increase of 4.9 per cent (y-o-y) followed by Capital-Formation 4.8 per cent (y-o-y) and Private consumption expenditure 1.1 percent (y-o-y). Meanwhile, Exports of Goods and Services and Government Consumption Expenditure each recorded a decrease of 9.2 per cent (y-o-y) and 0.3 per cent (y-o-y). GDP is a measure of the total value of goods and services produced within a certain period after deducting the cost of goods and services used in the production process.