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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) on the eve of Aidilfitri celebration 1438 Hijrah / 2017

Stay healthy and control spending habits

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 25 - Two things should be kept in mind during the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration which is to maintain our health and to control spending habits.

"During Hari Raya, I wish to remind of two things: Firstly, how important it is for us to take care of our health, and secondly: the need to control spending," said His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration 1438

Hijrah / 2017 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said that during the fasting month, our digestion system is well controlled, which is certainly good for health.

However, said His Majesty, when Syawal comes, the system may change and thus bring the opposite impact.

Therefore, His Majesty said, the situation requires us, to be moderate in the selection and consumption of food, as a measure or way to maintain our health.

His Majesty said that the country can continue to progress and even strengthen when its people are healthy.

Regarding the matter of spending, His Majesty said, we Muslims are required to be more prudent, which means that we should be more frugal and less wasteful.

"The nature of extravagant and wasteful, in addition to violating the teachings of religion, is also a detrimental habit. It needs to be overcome. Otherwise, we fear that the sustenance would not be a blessing. Various disadvantages may occur if the sustenance is not a blessing. However, I am optimistic, the fasting ritual we have just carried out, by Allah's will, can change or improve any attitude or habits that needs to be changed," said His Majesty.

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Peace and stability is a valuable blessing

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 25 - 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 calls on the country's people to thank Allah the Almighty for the peace and tranquillity for in this era, it is not easy to have such a blessing.

We constantly see or hear about war and chaos happening everywhere in the world.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted this matter in a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration 1438 Hijrah / 2017 at Istana Nurul Iman.

He said this is an indication that our world is now experiencing turbulent or chaotic times that has and is disrupting

peace and order, in which is difficult to predict, when the disaster may end.

However, His Majesty said, our primary duty is to make sure that our own country will always be safe and protected from any undesirable crisis.

"At the same time, we will not allow any negative elements to the country.

The blessing of peace and tranquility is everything. It surpasses all other blessings," said His Majesty.

The monarch goes on to say that no matter how wealthy a country may be, or its status as an 'economic giant', these are meaningless if there is no lasting peace or calmness.

Such is the importance of peace and tranquility, said His Majesty.

Earlier, His Majesty said, on this significant occasion for Muslims, let us together glorify Allah the Almighty with *takbir* and *tahmid*, by showing immense

gratitude to Him, for having successfully carried out our fasting obligations for an entire month.

"As I use the word successful here, it is to take into account that the fasting ritual is a great struggle against desires, and whoever performs it, that person is a great fighter who has succeeded in a very challenging fight," said His Majesty.

"Taking good gestures on this glorious day, I and the other members of my family extend our Hari Raya greetings to all of the Muslim citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam, wherever they may be.

I pray for their wellbeing and that they are to celebrate this joyous event in peace and security," expressed His Majesty.

His Majesty joins congregants for the Sunat Aidilfitri Prayer



His Majesty and members of the royal family performing the Sunat Aidilfitri Prayer at Jame' 'Asr Hassanal Bolkiah in Kiarong.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 26 - 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 joined hundreds of congregants in performing the sunat Aidilfitri prayer at Jame' 'Asr Hassanal Bolkiah in Kiarong.

Also in attendance were 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; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

The Sunat Aidilfitri Prayer was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.

In the *khutbah* (sermon) delivered

by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti, among other things reminded Muslims to always recite zikir and remember Allah the Almighty. The State Mufti said that thinking of Allah is the key to deliverance or safety.

Meanwhile in the second sermon, the State Mufti explained that prayers not only provide safety shields or forts for those who perform them, but can also brighten one's face or appearance.

Sharing the joy of Hari Raya with State Dignitaries and Diplomats



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam at the Istana Nurul Iman during the audience and junjung ziarah in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam at the Hari Raya Aidilfitri consented to receive in audience and junjung ziarah from state dignitaries (above) and diplomats and foreign representatives in the country (below).



'Adawiyah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel.

Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; His Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam His Majesty's grandchildren as well as other members of the royal family.

As always, the visits from state dignitaries and diplomats to His Majesty on the first day of Syawal after performing the Sunat Aidilfitri Prayers, reflects the warmth and sincerity in strengthening the relationship and expressing goodwill that has long been established.

At the joyous occasion, Their Majesties and other members of the royal family were also pleased to receive Hari Raya greetings from the invited guests.

In addition, through the visits and audience, state dignitaries

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BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 26 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to receive in audience and junjung ziarah in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration 1437 Hijrah, from state dignitaries comprising Pengiran Cheteria; Cabinet Ministers; Deputy Ministers; Legislative Councils Members; diplomats and foreign representatives in the country; Permanent Secretaries; and senior government officials together with their spouses at the Istana Nurul Iman

Also present 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 binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah; His Royal Highness Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul

*From page 3



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah in a group photo with the spouses of state dignitaries, senior government officials and foreign diplomats.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik receive in audience and junjung ziarah from state dignitaries. (Above right and left, picture below right and left)





Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; His Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam and other members of the royal family in a group photo with the spouses of state dignitaries, senior government officials and foreign diplomats.



and foreign diplomats also had a chance to mingle with their counterparts. Guests were also treated to a feast of various raya delicacies, which certainly add a sense of gratitude and joy in celebrating the day of victory for fellow Muslims.

Meanwhile, in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1438 Hijrah, the Istana Nurul Iman will also be open for three days starting from the second day of Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1438 Hijrah from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm, and from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm for members of the public to visit and meet His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal families.

HIS MAJESTY SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

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

- His Excellency Lee Nak-yeon, following his election as the new Prime Minister Republic of Korea on June 1.
- His Excellency Vladimir Putin, President of The Russian Federation on the occasion of National Day on June 12
- His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of The Republic of the Philippines on the occasion of the Philippines 119th Independence Day on June 12.
- The Rt. Hon. Theresa May, MP, on the re-appointment as the Prime Minister of The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on June 13.
- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the occasion of Her Majesty's 91st Birthday Anniversary on June 20.
- Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, on his recent appointment as the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on June 24.

HIS MAJESTY SENDS MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

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

- The Rt. Hon. Theresa May, Prime Minister, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the latest attacks in London on June 4.
- His Excellency U Htin Kyaw, President, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the recent military plane crash in Myanmar on June 8.

Make Al-Quran as part of a reading culture

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 8 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifudien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) said that the learning of Al-Quran had long been established in Brunei before the introduction of a formal learning system in religious schools, as well as in lower to higher-level educational institutions.

Apart from studying the Al-Quran in schools, Al-Quran recitations have become a daily practice among officers and government staffs, departments and ministries, before conducting their respective duties.

"This is emphasised, because Al-Quran literacy should be part of the Bruneian culture, while also seeking divine grace (*Tabarruk*) from it as a source of healing and a mercy for the faithful," said His Majesty at the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration 1438 Hijrah held at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Center, Berakas.

Earlier, His Majesty also recalled the history of the Nuzul Al-Quran in which commemorating or glorifying it resembles as an appreciation to this history.

The Nuzul Al-Quran is a great history and Muslims should know it, His Majesty added.

"The historical value, especially if it is related to Islam, has a very high value, because of its noble nature, compared



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifudien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration 1438 Hijrah held at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Center, Berakas.

with other historical events.

History is a mirror of the times and way of life. From history, we recognize the patterns of times and life. It must always be left opened, because if the door to history is closed, it may result in making people blind to their history. Imagine, if we Muslims do not know the history of Islam,

where are we as Muslims?" His Majesty said.

Therefore, His Majesty has emphasised, that all major Islamic events should be celebrated and glorified, as it is part of an Islamic history itself.

His Majesty graces National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 11 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifudien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration 1438 Hijrah at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Center, Berakas.

Upon arrival, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs as the Chairman of the Major Islamic Events Celebrations for 1438 Hijrah Executive Committee, together with other members of the Executive Committee and other Working Committees.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The ceremony began with the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

This was followed with a welcoming speech from the Minister of Religious Affairs who, among others, explained the theme of the Nuzul Al-Quran this year, "Al-Quran My Friend, Enlightened My Life". ("*Al-Quran Temanku, Menceriakan Hidupku*")

According to Yang Berhormat, the theme reveals an invitation or a call for someone who wants true happiness of life to be close with the Qur'an as it will guide and revive the way of life.

Yang Berhormat said, Allah the Almighty himself mentions that the Quran is a *nur*, a bright light.

The event proceeded with the announcement of the winners of the National Level Al-Quran Memorisation and Understanding Competition finals and the MABIMS Al-Quran Memorisation and Understanding Competition by Haji Abdul Rajid bin Haji Mohd Salleh, the Director

of Mosque Affairs as the Chairman of the Judging Committee.

At the ceremony, winners in five categories of the Final of the National Al-Quran Memorisation and Understanding presented their recitations and understanding of Al-Quran.

His Majesty then consented to award prizes to the winners of the Final of the National Al-Quran Memorisation and Understanding and MABIMS member-level Competition.

Two categories were competed in the MABIMS member countries which were participated by Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Singapore.

Awang Muhammad Hazri bin Hj Mohammad Hamzani, from Brunei Darussalam won the Memorising 30 Chapters of Al-Quran and Understanding of Chapter 22 for 13 years old Category and below receiving BND 7,000, a trophy and a certificate.

In second place was Nur Amalina binti Azharuddin from Malaysia, while third place went to Khobirul Amru from the Republic of Indonesia.

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Meanwhile, the Memorising of 10 Chapters of Al-Quran and Understanding the 8th Chapter category for 20 years and below, was won by Dayang Ainaa Zahirah bte Haji Abdul Manap from Brunei Darussalam who received BND 4,000, a trophy and a certificate.

Dayang Iffah binti Abd Rahim from Malaysia and Awang Muhammad Nurdarwis bin Anuar from the Republic of Singapore, were placed second and third respectively.

Five categories were competed in the Final of the National Al-Quran Memorisation and Understanding Competition.

Dayang Nur Kamaliah binti Haji Jahari won the Category 'A' of Memorising and Understanding of Selected Verses from Chapter 30 and its understanding for 11 years and below, followed by Dayang Ezyan Adibah binti Awang Mohd. Hanafi and Dayang Aisyah Syamila binti Dr. Haji Gamal Abdul Nasir in second and third place respectively.

Meanwhile, Awangku Muhammad Fakhur Razey bin Pengiran Damit won Category 'B' of Memorising and Understanding of Selected Verses for participants aged 17 and below, followed by Dayang Nur Syafiqah binti Mohammad Saidi in second place and Dayang Fatin Amal Sakinah binti Dr. Zulkifli in third place.

Category 'C' of Memorising 3 Chapter of Al-Quran which was open to all age groups was won by Dayang Hajah Morhidayatul Mukminah Hj Puteh, followed by Pengiran Hairuldin bin Pengiran Haji Mohd Tali @ Pengiran Muhd Khairuddin in second place and Dayang Norhanisah binti Haji Abd Rani in third place.

The winner for Category 'D' of Memorising 15 Chapters of Al-Quran and Understanding of Chapter 11, open to participants of all age groups went to Awang Abdul Aziz bin Noor Nasran, followed Dayang Nurkamaliah binti Haji Muhammad Ridzuan and Dayang Aisah Binti Haji Ibrahim in second and third place respectively.

Awang Muhammad Hasbul Wafi bin Haji Ahmad emerged as the champion of the Category 'E' for memorising 30 Chapters of Al-Quran, open to all age groups, followed by Awang Muhammad Hidayatullah Sunazul Fikar bin Siup in second place and Awang Muhammad Khairulmuhtadee bin Hamzah in the third place.

This year's National Level Nuzul Al-Quran ceremony was organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs with the cooperation of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence; Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD); Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam (TAIB) and Takaful Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam awarding a prize to Awang Muhammad Hazri bin Hj Mohammad Hamzani, from Brunei Darussalam for winning the Memorising 30 Chapters of Al-Quran and Understanding of Chapter 22.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam awarding a prize to Awang Muhammad Hasbul Wafi bin Haji Ahmad for winning the champion of the Category 'E' for memorising 30 Chapters of Al-Quran.

His Majesty officiates Hassanal Bolkiah Mosque, Kampong Mentiri

MENTIRI, June 23 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to launch the new Hassanal Bolkiah Mosque in Kampong Mentiri, and performed the first Friday prayers at the mosque.

The monarch was greeted upon arrival by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti; and Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd Daud, the Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs.

Also joining His Majesty for the mass Friday prayer were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel.

Upon arrival, His Majesty then signed a plaque, which was immediately followed by the call of 'Allahu Akbar' three times, led by the Minister of Religious Affairs.

The Hassanal Bolkiah Mosque, Kampong Mentiri was built on the order of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-



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 signing the official plaque for the Hassanal Bolkiah Mosque in Kampong Mentiri.

Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on the 10th of April to replace the Kampong Mentiri National Housing Programme Mosque, which was destroyed in a fire on the 5th

of April, 2017.

The 'Julangan Titah Hassanal Bolkiah Mosque Project' was finally completed on June 19, in just 49 days.



The Hassanal Bolkiah Mosque in Kampong Mentiri.

18,299 receive His Majesty's personal gift



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Pengiran Isteri Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah presenting the gifts, at the Reception Hall of Istana Nurul Iman in the Brunei-Muara on June 19.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 19 and 20 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to grant personal gifts to 18,299 people nationwide in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1438 Hijrah.

From the total, 12,012 recipients were from the Brunei-Muara District; 2,658 recipients from Belait; 2,887 recipients from Tutong and 742 recipients were from the Temburong District. Recipients comprised of orphans, people with special needs, monthly Welfare Assistance and Brunei Islamic Religious Council Assistance recipients.

On June 19, presentation ceremonies were held at the Istana Nurul Iman in the Brunei-Muara District and the Insani Hall, Seria in the Belait District.

At the Reception Hall of Istana Nurul Iman, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Pengiran Isteri Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah, as the personal representatives of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present the personal gifts.

Concurrently at Baitur Rahmah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah as the personal representatives of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also consented to present the personal gifts.

In total, 7,400 recipients received the personal gift from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on the first day at the Istana Nurul Iman.

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Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah presenting the gifts, at Baitur Rahmah of Istana Nurul Iman in Muara district on June 19.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah presenting the gifts, in the Belait District on June 19.





His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Pengiran Isteri Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah presenting the gifts, at the Reception Hall of Istana Nurul Iman in Brunei Muara District on June 20.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah presenting the gifts, at Baitur Rahmah of Istana Nurul Iman in Muara district on June 20.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah presenting the gifts, in the Tutong District on June 20.



Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzillah Lubabul Bolkiah presenting the gifts, at the Belalong Hall, in Temburong District on June 20.

Meanwhile in the Belait District, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah as the personal representatives of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present the personal gifts to 2,658 recipients.

The following day on June 20, presentation ceremonies took place in Istana Nurul Iman in the Brunei-Muara District; the Community Hall in the Tutong District and the Belalong Hall in the Temburong District.

At the Reception Hall of the Istana Nurul Iman, His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Pengiran Isteri Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah, as the personal representatives of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present the personal gifts.

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YTM consents to launch RAM Expo 2017



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah officiating the Ramadan Al-Mubarak (RAM) Expo 2017, at the BRIDEX Hall, Jerudong.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 8 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to officiate the Ramadan Al-Mubarak (RAM) Expo 2017, at the BRIDEX Hall, Jerudong.

Soon after the opening ceremony, Her Royal Highness toured the stalls of the participating vendors highlighting local and foreign entrepreneurs.

A total of 135 stalls were set up in the expo featuring a wide range of latest items, products and fashion brands from Malaysian and Indonesian celebrities.

The RAM Expo 2017 Chairman, Pengiran Zamree bin Pengiran Haji Bujang in interview explained that this expo was held for the first time to encourage local entrepreneurs to foster closer ties with foreign entrepreneurs and at the same time exchange views and experiences from them.

Various activities were also available such as religious activities organised by the Da'wah Islamiah Center and Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA) among them is the Surah Al-Fatihah Clinic, ways to perform proper prayers and sales of religious books.

Through these activities, it is hoped to provide an opportunity to the public to gain knowledge.

The RAM 2017 Expo also aimed to encourage people to spend in the country and support entrepreneurs who run their business either full-time or part-time.



Her Royal Highness touring the stalls of the participating vendors highlighting local and abroad entrepreneurs in the expo.

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Concurrently at Baitur Rahmah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah as the personal representatives of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also consented to present the personal gifts.

In total, 4,612 recipients received the personal gift from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman.

In the Tutong District, Her Royal

Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah as personal representatives of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present the personal gifts to 2,887 recipients from the district.

At the Belalong Hall, Temburong District, 742 more people received His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's personal gift from Her Royal Highness Princess

Fadzillah Lubabul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah as the personal representative of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The advantages of charity are described in the Al-Qur'an, where those who generously spend their wealth in the way of Allah The Almighty will be rewarded, as long as the charity or donation is given sincerely because of Allah The Almighty. Therefore, the personal gift of His Majesty clearly reflects the care and concern in ensuring the wellbeing of the people and the residents of this country, especially amongst the needy.

106th ILC discussed employment issues



The Minister of Home Affairs (second right) in a group photo with the Asean Labour Ministers.

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, June 14 – Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs, attended the 106th International Labour Conference (ILC) from June 12-14 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland.

This year's ILC, held from June 5-16, discussed pertinent labour and employment issues related to the challenges of governance in light of labour migration, final revisions to the Employment (Transition from War to Peace) Recommendation (No 71), the abrogation of out-dated International Labour Organization (ILO) instruments as well as a recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of fundamental principles and rights at work under the follow-up to the ILO's 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalisation.

Also in attendance were Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Mahdi bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Diraja Dato Laila Utama Awang Haji Abdul Rahman, the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to Geneva; Commissioner of Labour as well as representatives from national employers' and workers' organisations.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Haji Awang Abu

Bakar delivered his plenary statement to the conference on June 13, 2017, in which he applauded the ILO's efforts in promoting the need for systematic collection and harmonisation of labour migration statistics to counter data deficits on labour migration trends.

In his plenary statement, the minister also commended the ILC for arriving at its final discussion on Recommendation No 71 as an instrument that fully recognises the important function of employment generation, enterprise creation and entrepreneurship training in recovering livelihoods and promoting peace, recovery and resilience in the aftermath of crisis and disasters.

Prior to his plenary statement, the minister attended the Asean Labour Ministers' breakfast hosted by the Secretary of Labour and Employment of the Republic of the Philippines at the Grand Hotel Kempinski Geneva, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the forming of ASEAN.

On the sidelines of the 106th ILC, the minister also had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Manpower of the Republic of Singapore, Lim Swee Say and mutually exchanged best practices on skills development in the context of manpower and employment.

Minister of Education Meets Two Envoys

BERAKAS, June 7 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Education, received two separate courtesy calls- a farewell visit from His Excellency David Campbell, the outgoing British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam and a courtesy visit from His Excellency Mehmet Suat Akgun, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Brunei Darussalam.

Both meetings took place at the Ministry of Education in Berakas.

The Minister of Education first received a farewell visit from the outgoing British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam His Excellency David Campbell, who will be ending his service in June.

During the farewell visit from His Excellency David Campbell, a number of things were touched upon such as the achievements and efforts in strengthening cooperation in the fields of education between the two countries.

Meanwhile, during the courtesy visit from His Excellency Mehmet Suat Akgun, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Brunei Darussalam, discussed and focused on efforts to explore areas of cooperation in education that can be jointly implemented by the Ministry of Education and the Government of the Republic of Turkey.



The Minister of Education with Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Brunei Darussalam.



The Minister of Education with the outgoing British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

Minister of Religious Affairs receives farewell visit from outgoing envoy



Minister of Religious Affairs receiving a farewell visit from the outgoing Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam.

BERAKAS, June 6 – Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs received a farewell visit from Her Excellency Noriko Iki, the outgoing Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam.

Also present at the ceremony were Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd Daud, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs; Roslan bin Haji Taja'ah, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Administrative and Financial Affairs); Ariffin bin Dato Paduka Haji Abu Bakar, Head of Public Relations; and Haji Mohammad Albi bin Haji Ibrahim, Head of International Section and MABIMS, Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA).

During the visit, both parties lauded the close relations enjoyed by both countries and exchanged views on current issues and matters of common interest.

The visit was held at the Dhiyafah Room, of the new annex building at MoRA, Berakas.

Her Excellency Noriko Iki submitted the Letter of Credence to 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 on September 13, 2014.

Minister of Religious Affairs receives courtesy call



The Minister of Religious Affairs and the Ambassador of Turkey to Brunei Darussalam during the courtesy visit.

BERAKAS, June 15 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs, received a courtesy call from His Excellency Mehmet Suat Akgun, the Ambassador of Turkey to Brunei Darussalam.

At the meeting, the minister and the ambassador discussed Halal related issues and cooperation in religious matters.

Also present at the meeting were Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd Daud, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs; Haji Harun bin Haji Junid, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA); Roslan bin Haji Taja'ah, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Administrative and Financial Affairs); Haji Mohammad Albi bin Haji Ibrahim, Head of International and MABIMS Section; and Hassan Baha bin Haji Umar, Head of the Public Relations Section.

The meeting took place at the Dhiyafah Room of the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) building in Berakas.

His Excellency Mehmet Suat Akgun, the Ambassador of Turkey to Brunei Darussalam presented his Letter of Credence to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on February 15, 2017.

Kanglin Hydroponics Farming produce 58 metric tonnes of vegetables

KUALA BELAIT, June 1 - Kanglin Hydroponics Farming, located at the Sungai Liang Agriculture Development Area in Belait, became fully operational in 2009.

The farm is managed by Haji Muliadi bin Haji Moksin with the help of five staff.

The company grows vegetables and fruits on a 2.8-hectare plot of land by means of a modern closed house and

semi-closed house farming system, using the hydroponics and fertigation cultivation system.

Its produce includes leafy vegetables such as Japanese/Lebanese cucumber, cherry tomato, pak choy, Amaranth (Bayam), Brassicas (Sawi), Kailan and spinach, as well as an assortment of fruits.

The crop cultivation process employs a high-technology system, which replaces

soil with the use of vegetable sponge and cocopeat.

This ensures high quality crops by eliminating soil-borne diseases that affect the quality and production of the crops.

Thai chili, sweet corn and papaya are grown as additional crops with the help of a semi-high technology system.

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*From page 14

Due to the El-Nino phenomena, the company was only able to produce 57 metric tonnes of vegetables in 2016, whereas 2015 saw 58 metric tonnes of vegetable produced.

These crops carry the 'All About Green' logo on their packaging as the company's product brand, and are marketed at supermarkets nationwide.

In 2013, Haji Muliadi received the Farmers award, Successful Farmer and Livestock Breeders award in conjunction with the Farmers, Livestock Breeders and Fishermen's Day 2013.



Kanglin Hydroponics Farming Manager, Haji Muliadi bin Haji Moxsin briefs ang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism Yabout the hydroponics system used at the farm.

Brugoa Farming rearing Boer goats and Dorper sheep

KUALA BELAIT, June 1 - Brugoa Farming and Trading Sdn Bhd located in Kampung Gana in Sungai Liang, Belait, began operation in December 2015.

It is managed by Hajah Rohzema binti Haji Ismail, and currently has 2,205 Boer goats and Dorper sheep on the farm, Brugoa Farming and Trading Sdn Bhd has set aside 450 Boer goats and Dorper sheep for Aqiqah and Korban, each weighing between 25 kg to 50 kg.

The company started the business for breeding purposes in late 2015, with the Boer goat and Dorper sheep breeds imported from Australia.

Its primary objective was to increase livestock production with the availability of locally sourced goat and sheep meat. Its goal is to breed, rear and sell locally sourced goat and sheep meat.

The farm is considered to be the first in the country to breed Dorper sheep intensively and aspires to introduce its meat to local consumers.

The management has also employed a field veterinarian experienced in rearing Boer goats and Dorper sheep, along with a labour force of 39 field workers.

The farm area consists of eight goat houses, six of which are used as the main production houses and the remaining two as nursery quarters.

The capacity per goat house is between 400 and 500 heads, depending on the length of the house structure.

In the breeding production of the Boer goats and Dorper sheep, the farm management observed that delivering sets of twins was quite the norm, although from the breeders in Australia, this was



Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong and Legislative Council Member Yang Berhormat Haji Umarali bin Esung at the farm.

generally not the case for Dorper breeds.

Caring for twins would be more tedious and requires ample nutrition and care.

If required, supplementing with manual bottle feeding may be needed; using expressed milk from other female goats that had miscarried or lost its young.

Dorper sheep are naturally woolly and would need shearing in its management so as to avoid heat stress as well as for hygiene purposes.

The husbandry management segregates the livestock population based on the production stages, e.g. for the

pregnant and maternity areas, weaned young, breeding males and females and for the goats and sheep ready for sale.

The feeding management programme in the farm caters for the preparation of fodder or grass feed, supplemented pellet feed, concentrate and silage (fermented grass and other supplements).

Management for proper and clean feeding system is important to ensure optimum animal health and growth as well as a preventive measure against diseases.

Grouper fish enterprises tap into the International market

MUARA, June 17 - A local company, Nur Nabai Aquaculture Sendirian Berhad, began exporting a total of three tonnes of live hybrid grouper fish to the Hong Kong market.

Nur Nabai Aquaculture is a joint venture between local investors Fisherod Enterprise and an investment company from Indonesia's PT Sumetra Budidaya Marine.

Present to witness the first delivery of the fish were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, and Yang Berhormat Pengiran Haji Mohamed bin Pengiran Haji Osman @ Othman, a Legislative Council member and Village Head of Kampung Masjid Lama, Pekan Muara, Sabun and Pelumpong.

Nur Nabai Aquaculture, which began operation on August 30, 2016, is located on a six-hectare site in Tanjung Pelumpong in the Brunei-Muara District.

In addition to fish breeding in cage, the joint venture company is planning to develop hybrid grouper breeds by establishing hatcheries and nurseries in Kampong Sungai Paku in the Tutong District at the end of this year.

The establishment of such hatcheries and nurseries in the country will not only ensure a more competitive price for fish farmers, but also support the supply of high quality fish fry that is adequate and sustainable.

Nur Nabai Aquaculture will also cooperate with local fish farmers through contract farming. Through this initiative, the company will supply hybrid grouper fry to local fish farmers and buy back the fish once they reach the required size, to be marketed in Hong Kong and the People's Republic of China.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, loading the harvested groupers into the export vessel.

This is in line with the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT)'s aspiration to help diversify economic activities and stimulate the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth.

Although it has only been in operation for 10 months, Nur Nabai Aquaculture Sendirian Berhad, has successfully made its first export abroad to Hong Kong.

Awang Haji Abd. Rudi bin Haji Abd. Rahim, Chief Executive Officer of Nur Nabai Aquaculture said, that they are expecting to produce 1,200 tonnes of hybrid fish annually by 2020 with an expected monthly export of 100 metric tonnes.

"The company is very fortunate to have partners from abroad with extensive experience in fish farming, and a strong network of export markets in Hong Kong and China. Nur Nabai Aquaculture is extremely grateful for the strong support and cooperation from the government, especially MPRT," he added.

Through its various projects, he said, the company is expecting a six-fold increase in fish production by 2020 compared to 2015 and hoping to generate about 100 jobs.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, taking a closer look at the operations of Nur Nabai Aquaculture Sendirian Berhad.

Protect the environment to spur growth

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 5 - A healthy environment facilitates the advancing of economies, enables the social wellbeing of the community, and provides a system which promotes sustainable economic growth and better resource utilisation.

This was highlighted by Dr Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, in his speech during the World Environment Day (WED) celebration, which was organised by the High Commission of Canada in Brunei Darussalam in collaboration with BruWILD and the Collective Makerspace in Batu Bersurat.

According to Dr Haji Abdul Manaf, the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam gives priority to the protection and conservation of the country's natural resources in a bid to increase its contribution to the national economy. He said that the initiatives complement the principles of sustainable development and are in line with the development strategies of Brunei Vision 2035.

"Our national environment initiatives also support the strategies under the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. Specifically, our environment programmes support the majority of the sustainable goals, such as food production, good health and well-being, clean water and sanitation, decent work and economic growth,



Dr Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism and Her Excellency Marina Laker, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam, touring the exhibition.

industry innovation, sustainable cities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life on land and below water and partnerships," he continued.

He further stated that the government often seeks better management approaches in preserving the country's pristine environment because Brunei Darussalam is also not spared from global environmental problems such as climate change and biodiversity loss.

"The active participation of Brunei

Darussalam in international and regional initiatives like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Heart of Borneo (HoB) initiative, and other relevant commitments signify the government's sincerity in protecting the natural environment within the principles of sustainable development," the permanent secretary pinpointed.

Goodwill visit to the Ministry of Religious Affairs

BERAKAS, June 16. - Awang Haji Harun bin Haji Junid, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), received a courtesy call from Dr Enrico Perotti, Counsellor of Agriculture at the Agriculture and Water Source Department at the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The aim of the meeting was to clarify the function and role of the ministry especially in the Halal Food Control Division, concerning the import and export regulations of agriculture.

Dr Perotti also shared the function and role of his department.

Accompanying Dr Perotti was Hafiz Burkhan, Research official at the Agriculture and Water Source Department at the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Also present during the meeting were Haji Zulkifli bin Penglima Asgar Dato Paduka Haji Abdullah, Director



Awang Haji Harun bin Haji Junid, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Dr Enrico Perotti, Counsellor of Agriculture at the Agriculture and Water Source Department at the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in a group photo with other senior officials.

of Administration under MoRA; Haji Mohammad Albi bin Haji Ibrahim, Head of International and Religious Ministers of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore (MABIMS); and Hassan Baha bin Haji Umar, Head of Public Relations.

The meeting took place in the Mawar Room on 4th floor of the MoRA building.

PCSB, as an additional data provider to the Credit Bureau

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 12 – The signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) and Progresif Cellular Sdn Bhd (PCSB) was recently held at the PCSB Headquarters, Kampung Kiarong.

According to an AMBD Press Release, signing on behalf of AMBD was Haji Adi Marhain bin Haji Leman, the Acting Deputy Managing Director, while Paul Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, represented PCSB.

Witnessing the signing ceremony was Mohammed Roaizan bin Haji Johari, the Acting Assistant Executive Director (Credit Bureau) of AMBD, and Roger Plahay, the Chief Financial Officer of PCSB. Senior officials from both AMBD and PCSB were also present.

The MoU aimed to set a foundation of cooperation and collaboration for both signatories in relation to the submission of customers' credit information to AMBD's Credit Bureau. The initiative aimed to further enhance the lender's credit risk management by equipping them with utility data as an alternative form of credit information sourced from the providers of 'credit-like' services, such as telecoms. PCSB, as an additional data provider to the Credit Bureau, symbolises another milestone for the Credit Bureau as it will now have full coverage of all telecommunication companies in Brunei Darussalam.

The inclusion of utility data in the credit report will further enable customers to establish their 'reputational collateral' by demonstrating their willingness and ability to repay multiple and regular interval payments, particularly as utility customers are typically billed monthly, resembling the typical loan repayment cycles. The reporting of both positive (such as timely payment) and negative (such as missed payment) information would encourage customers to establish and maintain good credit or payment history that will ultimately enable them to gain greater access to credit.

In conjunction with the signing ceremony, an AMBD representative also delivered a briefing on the function and role of the Credit Bureau to the officers and staff of PCSB. During the occasion, the Credit Bureau also set up a temporary Self-Inquiry Service counter to give opportunities for officers and staff of PCSB to obtain their own individual credit report. The credit report or also known as the Self-Inquiry Report (SIR) contains detailed



The signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) and Progresif Cellular Sdn Bhd (PCSB).

information of the individual's credits that he/she has taken up, such as a credit card, personal financing or motor vehicle financing. The information contained in the credit report is as what has been reported to the Credit Bureau by various lending institutions.

Individuals or companies can obtain their own credit report from the Credit Bureau for the purpose of self-checking to ensure the information reported in their credit report is accurate and updated.

The Credit Bureau is a unit under the Regulatory and Supervision Department of Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) and has commenced its operation since September 2012.

The main function of the Credit Bureau is to collect, consolidate and distribute credit information for the purpose of evaluation of creditworthiness or ability to repay a loan by an individual or company.

UNISSA – India discuss cooperation in education

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 21 - Brunei Darussalam and India continues its efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of education. Her Excellency Nagma Mohamed Mallick, the High Commissioner of the Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam paid a courtesy visit to Dr Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, the Rector of University Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA).

The purpose of the visit was to discuss cooperation in education, which can be explored in India. The high commissioner invited UNISSA to make official visits to a number of universities in India offering law programmes.

She also said that there are plans to invite selected experts from India to deliver special law lectures in Brunei in the near future, and spoke about helping UNISSA build its reputation among the Indian society.

To date, UNISSA has a bilateral cooperation with Darul Huda Islamic University of Kerala, India after signing a Memorandum of Understanding on September 22, 2016.

Two Indian nationals are working at the university as lecturers. To date, two Indian students have studied at the university; one is presently doing a doctorate programme in Usuluddin, while the other recently graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Fiqh and Usuluddin.

Also present during the visit was Dr Haji Mohammed Hussain bin Pehin Penyurat Haji Ahmad, Deputy Rector and the Director of the International and Public Relation Centre of UNISSA.



Dr Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, the Rector of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) presenting a souvenir as a token of appreciation to Her Excellency Nagma Mohamed Mallick, the High Commissioner of the Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam.

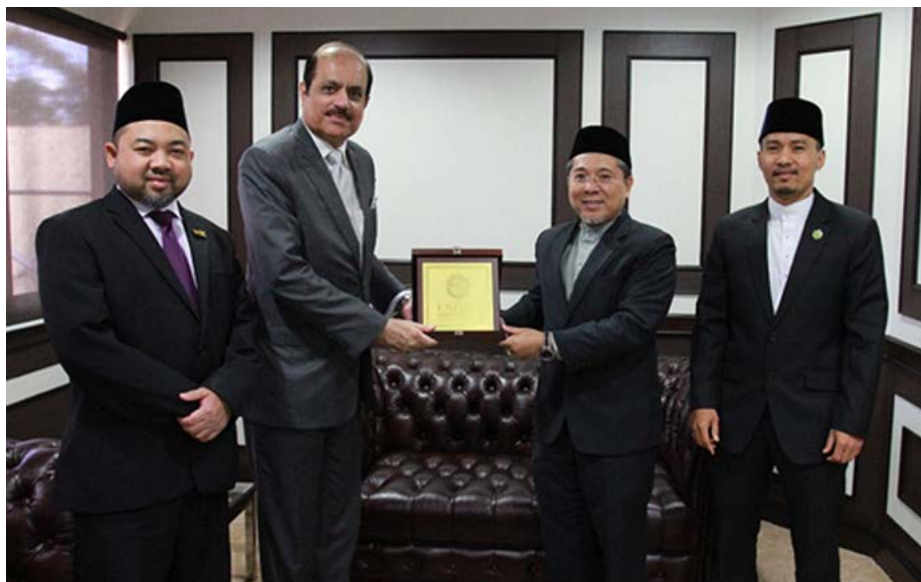
Pakistan can help UNISSA build its reputation

BANDAR SERI BEBGAWAN, June 14 – Opportunities for collaboration in education was among others discussed during His Excellency Major General (Retired) Tariq Rashid Khan, the High Commissioner of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam's courtesy call to Dr Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, the Rector of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA).

The high commissioner said that Pakistan now has more than 200 universities each with their own expertise. The high commissioner also mentioned interest in helping to build UNISSA's reputation at an international level.

UNISSA currently has bilateral cooperation with the International Islamic University of Islamabad, Pakistan after signing a Memorandum of Understanding on February 14, 2017. The Rector of UNISSA also attended a meeting to establish an Asia-Africa Islamic universities network based in Islamabad, and was appointed as the Deputy General Secretary.

During the visit, Dr Haji Norarfan welcomed Pakistan nationals to pursue their studies in UNISSA. To date, one



His Excellency Major General (Retired) Tariq Rashid Khan, the High Commissioner of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam, during a courtesy call to Dr Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, the Rector of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA).

Pakistan national has been awarded with a bachelor's degree in Syariah while two others are still undertaking Islamic Finance and Banking degree programme.

Also present were the Deputy Rector and the Director of International and Public Relations Centre of UNISSA.

Bruneian students receive award at UKRC congress in United Kingdom

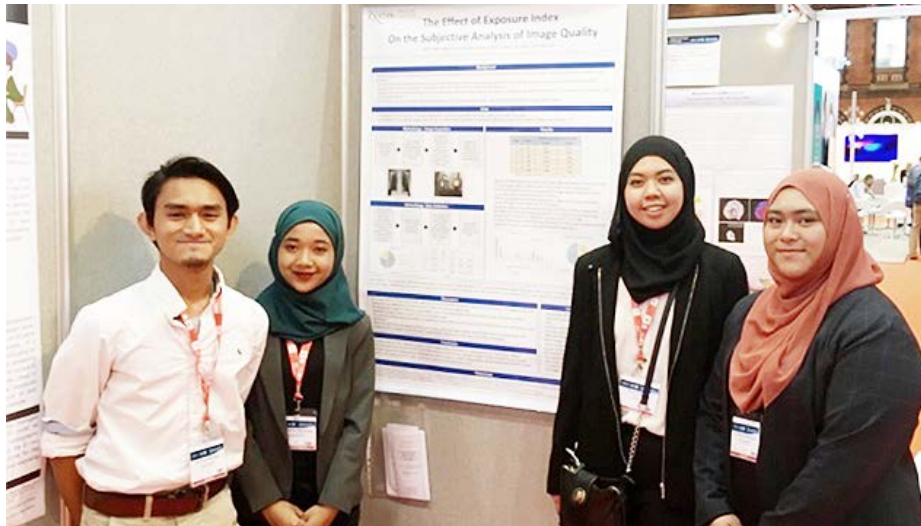
UNITED KINGDOM, June 12 - A group comprising of four final-year Bruneian students from University of Exeter were awarded the Dean's Fund to attend a three-day congress from June 12 to 14 held at the Manchester Convention Centre.

The congress is an annual event co-hosted by the United Kingdom Radiological Congress (UKRC) and United Kingdom Radiation Oncology (UKRO) presidents, which consists of three days of multidisciplinary scientific conference and technical exhibitions participated by thousands from across the medical imaging field to showcase state-of-the-art equipment and services.

The theme for UKRC this year focused on how new technologies and techniques were adopted within radiological imaging and radiation oncology, to improve and optimise patient care and experience.

The students were rewarded with a place in the congress to showcase their university research project poster titled 'The effect of Exposure Index (EI) on the subjective analysis of image quality'. It was chosen as runner-up (2nd place) out of 150 poster submissions in the 'Best Research/Scientific Poster' category by the UKRC committee.

UKRC President, Maryann Hardy and Professor Robert Winston, a Research Professor in the Imperial College London presented the runner-up prize to the students at the closing ceremony on June 14, 2017.



Four final-year Bruneian students from the Universiti of Exeter Awang Muhammad FakhriHaziq Abdul Hakip (L), Dayang Siti Nurshahira Aboo Samah (2nd L), Dayang Nur Afiatul Haziyah Hassan (2nd R) and Dayangku Nur Rabi'atul 'Adawiyah Pengiran Haji Zulkifli (R).

The students gained valuable insight and knowledge from the main research findings and exhibits displayed by the other participants.

The students were also made aware of the latest technological advancements in radiology available to and used in UK hospitals such as different types of equipments and how it can be utilised to improve service efficiency. These new technologies are quite possibly the future for radiographers not just in the UK, but

those in Brunei Darussalam as well.

The students' interaction with radiographers from different backgrounds (such as CT radiographers, MRI radiographers and sonographers) could pave a path for improved networking and collaboration between radiographers in the UK and Brunei, allowing for the exchange of new ideas to improve healthcare.

UBD breaks into the QS World University Rankings

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 9 - Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) achieved a major landmark in the year 2017 as it broke into the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings for the first time, attaining a creditable 349th rank.

With over 26,000 universities in the world, QS has placed UBD among the top 1.3 per cent of universities worldwide. UBD is one of only 13 universities from Southeast Asia to be ranked in the top 400 in the world.

Quacquarelli Symonds is the world's first university rating agencies recognised by the International Ranking Expert Group (IREG). It is a breakthrough achievement for the 32-year-old university, which made headlines the first year it participated in the QS Asia university rankings in 2014.

UBD became one of the fastest rising universities in 2015 when it leaped 57 places to an overall ranking of 118 in the region. Prior to 2014, UBD was unranked in the leading university rankings exercises. A sign of continued progress, UBD has made it into the more prestigious QS World University Rankings for the very first time.

The QS World University Rankings compares the leading universities around the world. Based on six performance indicators, the ranking assesses university performance across four areas – research, teaching, employability, and internationalisation. It is regarded as one of the most influential and reliable university rankings in the world. Among the indicators, UBD performed particularly well in international faculty coming in at 47th in the world; faculty-student ratio at 69th in the world; and international students ranked 210th.

QS World University Rankings has noted that there is a strong correlation between national investment in education and performance in the international rankings. UBD's development is only

possible through the strong support of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Government.

Being among the top institutions in the world was emphasised by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, who is also the Chancellor of UBD, in a *titah* (royal speech) at the university's 26th Convocation Ceremony in 2014, whereby His Majesty advised UBD that it was important to compete rather than being a spectator.

UBD developed an innovative and broad-based GenNEXT curriculum, with an emphasis on producing adaptable and entrepreneurial future-ready graduates with a passion for lifelong learning.

Recently, UBD opened the Centre for Lifelong Learning, offering a degree in Digital Economy and introducing more pathways for higher education for mature students and the community. While the rankings attest to its growing international reputation, UBD remains fully committed to its primary mission of producing highly educated and industry relevant students with the necessary skills and expertise for the nation's future workforce and supporting Brunei's Vision 2035, the statement noted.

Research activities in UBD have risen exponentially; the research publications in international peer reviewed journals rose almost tenfold and the citation index increased by fivefold between 2006 and 2016. UBD faculties and research institutes have focused on key areas of research relevant to Brunei Darussalam such as energy studies, biodiversity and the environment, Islamic studies, including Islamic governance and Asian studies. For the first time, UBD is now ranked as a "high" research-intensive university by QS.

"Many congratulations to UBD on the results of their dedication and hard work. Alhamdulillah, entering the QS World University Rankings for the first time is

a tremendous achievement for UBD and for Brunei Darussalam," said the Minister of Education and Chair of UBD Council, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman.

UBD is also actively growing its collaborations with agencies, prestigious institutions and industries, both within Brunei Darussalam and abroad, to grow its teaching capabilities, publication output and research. The rising international reputation of UBD is linked to its partnerships with top peer universities in the world.

For example, UBD's Master in Public Policy and Management programme is conducted in collaboration with Duke University, Georgetown University, University of Maryland, and the University of California, Berkeley. Similarly, UBD's Islamic Studies initiative has collaborative research with Oxford University, Kyoto University and the International Institute of Islamic Thought.

According to the Vice-Chancellor of UBD, Datin Dr Hajah Anita Binurul Zahrina binti Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, this achievement is a historic milestone for UBD.

"Alhamdulillah, the combined efforts and dedication of all our staff – academic and administrative – as well as our students, have been instrumental in achieving this. I wish to acknowledge all the people who have been part of UBD's journey over the past 32 years since its establishment."

UBD, she added, will continue to strive to become a world-class university and fulfill its primary mission of producing highly educated and trained graduates with the necessary skills for the workforce and nation building.



UBD Flyer is proof of UBD's commitment in cultivating a research culture and innovative ideas that can contribute to developing the nation's economy and in advancing research.



UBD Chancellor Hall (right)