



World political landscape needs transparency



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* in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1424 Hijrah/2003 Masihi celebration.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 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 in a *titah* (royal speech) said that Hari Raya brings a message of happiness and peace.

We must be thankful and remember the fate of other less fortunate Muslims in other parts of the world while celebrating Hari Raya.

This was underscored by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1424 Hijrah/2003 Masihi.

His Majesty added, how is it possible to achieve peace when war and chaos are still raging, the economy collapse and community structure in ruins.

This is the reality faced by Muslims in other parts of the world that have touched our feelings

"Everything is adequate here, unlike in other places, to buy even a loaf of bread is difficult, said His Majesty.

Here, we could peacefully and comfortably sit inside the mosque, but in other places, sitting inside a mosque does not guarantee peace as chaos could occur anytime.

"That is the situation nowadays, that are affecting the livelihood of Prophet Muhammad's ummah. To them there is no 'Assakeenah' or calmness due to instability that they face, which comes from themselves or from outside, in the form of uninvited colonialism," said His Majesty.

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YSHHB's Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration : Don't be complacent facing global challenges

BERAKAS, November 30 - 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 called on citizens and permanent residents, especially young professionals to foster better understanding and find the spirit equality apart from making preparations so that changes brought about by globalisation will not drift us.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam added that we should not be complacent from keeping up with the rapid growth of the world with the advancement of science, technology and communication that drastically changed part of our lifestyles including the way we act and work that can have an impact to family and the nation as a whole.

"As we could not avoid these changes, we are required to make preparations so we will not be drifted by changes brought

about by globalisation. We must have strong foundations and the right policy to drive us in the right direction," said His Majesty.

His Majesty underlined that the direction might not be the same as others due to differences in socio-political environments as there are also crucial aspects to take into account. These should not be based merely on taste but on suitable principals that have long helped the country to achieve prosperity and security.

"In this context, Islamic teaching has been looked upon as a 'miraculous torch' that drives towards justice, prosperity and peaceful life," said His Majesty in a *titah* (royal speech) at the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration hosted by the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) held at International Convention Centre.

His Majesty added, Islam furnishes us with ethical values in

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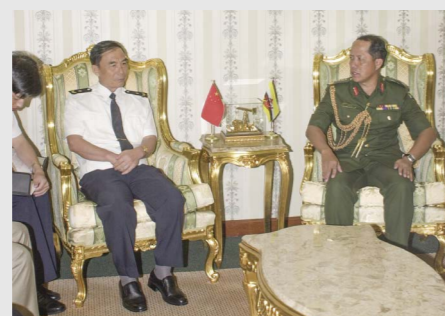
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✓ Appointment of Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court



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 conferring a Letter of Appointment to Sir Noel Plunkett Power, newly-appointed Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 1 - 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 appoint Sir Noel Plunkett Power as the new Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court.

Present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The Letter of Appointment was read by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentara Istiadat Diraja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin, the Grand Chamberlain.

Sir Noel Plunkett Power, 74, held the post of Chief Justice of Hong Kong from August 1996 until Hong Kong was handed over to China in June 1997.

He serves as the Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court starting November 1, 2003.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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

- His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk, King of the Kingdom of Cambodia and His Excellency Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the occasion of its Independence Day on November 9.
- His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Said, Sultan of the Sultanate of Oman on the occasion of its National Day on November 18.

✓ Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration : Uphold, follow the teachings of Al-Quran

BERAKAS, November 11 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam urged all Muslims to uphold the teachings of the Al-Quran to gain strength and excellence.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan expressed aggrieved when there exists a generation who do not know how to read the Al-Quran and understand the teachings from it. However, they are excellent and skilful in different fields just as non-Muslims.

This phenomenon must be prevented if Muslims want strength and excellence because the source of strength is in Al-Quran and not anywhere else.

His Majesty said this in a *titah* (royal speech) during the National Level of Nuzul Al-Quran celebration for 1424 Hijrah at the International Convention Centre.

According to His Majesty, Nuzul Al-Quran is the start that changed history from the dark life to enlightenment, from low human status to highly civilised.

"We refer back to the time when Muslims who upheld and followed the teachings of Al-Quran has not been disappointed and achieved greatness and nobility. It was only after they deferred from the teachings of Al-Quran that they started to face hardship and problems. This must be taken as a lesson for all Muslims to return to Al-Quran, not only for the sake of reading but to put it into practice," said His Majesty.

Accompanying His Majesty at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The ceremony also saw the presentation of prizes and certificates to the winners of an Al-Quran memorising competition by His Majesty.

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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 at the National Level of Nuzul Al-Quran celebration for 1424 Hijrah.



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 presenting a trophy to Aqilah binti Haji Ayub, winner for Category A.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting a trophy to Tahirah @ Zahidah binti Haji Sulaiman, winner for Category B.



His Majesty presenting a trophy to Muhd. Fikri bin Haji Sherbini who won Category C.



His Majesty presenting a trophy to Muhd. Adlan Aziz bin Haji Yusof, winner for Category D.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being greeted at the National Level of Nuzul Al-Quran celebration for 1424 Hijrah event.



Among the attendees at the event.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the ceremony.



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



Recitation of Al-Quran verses from one of the participants.

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Aqilah binti Haji Ayub won in category A and received \$1,500 cash prize, trophy and certificate.

While Tahirah @ Zahidah binti Haji Sulaiman who won in Category B received \$2,000 cash prize, trophy and certificate.

Muhd. Fikri Haji Sherbini won Category C and for Category D, won by Muhd Adlan Aziz Haji Yusof. Both received \$2,800 and \$4,500 cash prize respectively as well as a trophy and certificate.

Over 82 thousand attend open palace

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 29 – In conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri, 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 welcomed a total of 82,169 visitors from subjects and members of the public from November 27-29 at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam alongside with other members of royal family received male visitors.

Meanwhile, in the other room, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri consented to receive female visitors which consisted of government officials, uniformed personnel, tourists and public.

Accompanying Her Majesty were Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Noor Ihsani, as well as other members of the royal family.

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam receiving female visitors.



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 other members of the royal family receiving male visitors.



World political landscape needs transparency

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His Majesty urged the world community to strive towards improving the situation and make a change towards emphasising peace to ensure that all the people in the world could continue living in a meaningful manner without any disturbances.

His Majesty also hopes that the world political landscape would

see transparent developments and changes so that all parties can concentrate on their individual efforts towards development.

"On this Mubarak day and month, we pray, may all Muslims throughout the world be blessed and protected by Allah," His Majesty concluded his *titah*.

YSHHB's Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration : Don't be complacent facing global challenges



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; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration hosted by the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB).

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creating unity among the society that is loyal to the leader, caring, respectful and sympathetic to those who deserve.

These has become the criteria of our society that cares towards others who need assistance, and by Allah's will, we will uphold this characteristic in assisting those in need such as victims of natural disasters, orphans and others.

Other than that, we also consider the fate of Muslims abroad, such as in Cambodia, Iraq and Palestine, with the sincere donations given to them, Allah will repay the sincere contributions and bless us with continuous prosperity.

Towards that, His Majesty hoped that young professionals could volunteer to assist those in need.

His Majesty was also pleased to note that one of the approaches to enhance the quality of life, YSHHB has taken the initiative through programmes and projects by setting up an effective partnership with government and non-government agencies

"Towards this, the young professionals, if they want, could become strategic partners with the foundation."

The young professionals from public and private sectors not only have the responsibility to assist in the implementation of Brunei Darussalam's development plans, but also will inherit the future leadership.

Earlier, His Majesty reminisced the early era of independence 20 years ago where Brunei Darussalam lacked highly qualified human resources especially professional resources.

However, the situation did not deter the nation from standing tall and shoulder-to-shoulder with others in the regional and international arena. With the small and inexperienced resources, Brunei Darussalam was able to explore avenues of progress just like everybody else, said His Majesty.

His Majesty added, after 20 years of gaining independence, now the number of professionals will be able to drive the country and enjoy fruits of overall growth in various fields.

Accompanying His Majesty at the event were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

This is the first time YSHHB initiated an idea to celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri with young professionals.



His Majesty in a group photo with the senior professionals.

YSHHB's Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration : Don't be complacent facing global challenges



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 His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince during the get-together with the young professionals who attended the event.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam interacting with the attendees of the event.



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 a commemorative booklet.

✓ Crown Prince shows concern on youth welfare

BERAKAS, November 10 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince visited the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS).

During the visit, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka (Dr) Haji Awang Hussain, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports in his welcoming speech said that His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah visit to the ministry was a valuable and significant event that can stimulate to enhance the capacity of MCYS in implementing government policies related to youth, sports, community and culture.

His Royal Highness then received donors of various contributions from several agencies and companies to be given to the Welfare Housing Complex of the Community Development Department. The donors included sponsorship for the costs of repairing several hydroponics houses, computer desktops, laptops, projectors and printers, vehicles, books as well as other materials.

His Royal Highness was then briefed on the roles and functions of the visions and missions of the ministry by Haji Khalid bin



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince during the meet and greet with donation recipients

Haji Ghazali, Acting Permanent Secretary. 1984.

Haji Khalid also briefed on the policies and acts of MCYS, current plans, regional and international relationships, physical infrastructure and MCYS long-term plans since it was established in

His Royal Highness then toured and took a closer look at the facilities available at various departments, sections and units under the ministry, and concluded the visit with photo sessions.

✓ Crown Prince visits Department of Economic Planning and Development

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 11 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince visited the Department of Economic Planning and Development at Ong Sum Ping.

During the visit, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince was briefed on the main role and functions of the Department of Economic Planning and Development presented by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office.

His Royal Highness also listened to the short-term Economic Recovery Plan and the 8th National Development Plan.

His Royal Highness then toured various departments, sections and units under the department and took a closer look at the facilities available.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince listens to a briefing on the functions of the Department of Economic Planning and Development.

✓ Brunei - Sultanate of Oman cooperate in various fields



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka (Dr.) Haji Awang Hussain, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and His Excellency Haji Mohamed bin Omar Ahmed Aideed, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam during the reception to mark 33rd National Day of the Sultanate of Oman.

BERAKAS, November 18 - Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman have signed several Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and cooperation agreements in various fields.

This was highlighted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka (Dr.) Haji Awang Hussain, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports represented the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the reception to mark 33rd National Day of the Sultanate of Oman at International Convention Centre.

The Minister added, the MoU and various cooperation agreements signed were in the field of education, agriculture, fisheries, energy, student exchange programmes, visa exemption agreement and exchange visits of senior officials between both countries.

Meanwhile, His Excellency Haji Mohamed bin Omar Ahmed Aideed, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam in his speech felt pleased with the existing cooperation and relation between both countries since the establishment of the diplomatic relation on March 1984.

✓ Deputy Minister of Defence receives courtesy call



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith bin Pengiran Dato Penghulu Pengiran Haji Apong, Deputy Minister of Defence receiving a courtesy call from Rear Admiral Xue Tianpei, Deputy Commander of the People's Republic of China's South Sea Fleet.

BERAKAS, November 5 - Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith bin Pengiran Dato Penghulu Pengiran Haji Apong, Deputy Minister of Defence received a courtesy call from Rear Admiral Xue Tianpei, Deputy Commander of the People's Republic of China's South

Sea Fleet at the Ministry of Defence.

During the courtesy call, bilateral defence were discussed. The visit marked the first visit by a high ranking Chinese Navy Officer to Brunei Darussalam which intends to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries, especially in military.

✓ Commander of RBAF receives courtesy calls

BOLKIAH GARISON, November 17 – Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Dato Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) received a courtesy call from Lieutenant General Redmond Watt, Commander of the United Kingdom Field Army at the Ministry of Defence.

Lieutenant General Redmond Watt and his delegation are in the country for a three-day visit from November 16-18 to develop a better understanding and promote bilateral defence relationship cooperation between the two countries.

On November 4, the Commander of RBAF received a courtesy call from Rear Admiral Xue Tianpei, Deputy Commander of the People's Republic of China's South Sea Fleet.

Rear Admiral Xue Tianpei is in the country for a three-day goodwill visit with crew aboard the two warships from the People Liberation Army – DDG Shengzhen and Qinghaihu.

The courtesy call is regarded as a step forward to strengthen defence relation between the two countries since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Military Exchange between the Ministry of Defence of Brunei Darussalam and National Defence of the People's Republic of China on September 12.



Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Dato Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) receiving a courtesy call from Rear Admiral Xue Tianpei, Deputy Commander of the People's Republic of China's South Sea Fleet.

