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Brunei Darussalam

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Brunei Darussalam implements Syariah Law

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the commencement of the implementation of the Syariah Penal Code.



PHOTO: HAJI ARIFFIN MOHD. NOOR

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN April 30 - Brunei Darussalam will start implementing phase one of the Syariah Penal Code Order 2013 on 1st May, 2014.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam announced the date during

a special declaration ceremony of the commencement of the Syariah Law, held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

"With faith and gratitude to Allah the Almighty, I declare that tomorrow, Thursday 1 May 2014, will see the enforcement of Syariah Law Phase One,

to be followed by the other phases," declared His Majesty.

The initial phase introduces fines or jail terms for offences ranging from indecent behaviour, failure to attend Friday prayers, and out-of-wedlock pregnancies. The

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PHOTOS: HAJI ARIFFIN MOHD. NOOR & AK. AMIRULNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

MYANMAR, 2014

24th ASEAN SUMMIT

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 10 -11 May 2014



ASEAN Heads of Governments in a group photo session with His Excellency U Thein Sein, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.



His Majesty attends 24th ASEAN Summit

YANGOON, May 11 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed his gratitude that ASEAN had proven to be resilient, even when faced with challenging developments around and within the region.

This was said by His Majesty during a plenary session of the 24th ASEAN Summit in Myanmar.

His Majesty said that ASEAN leaders

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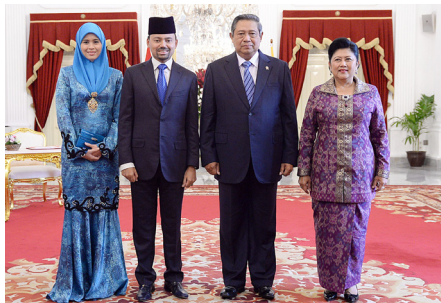
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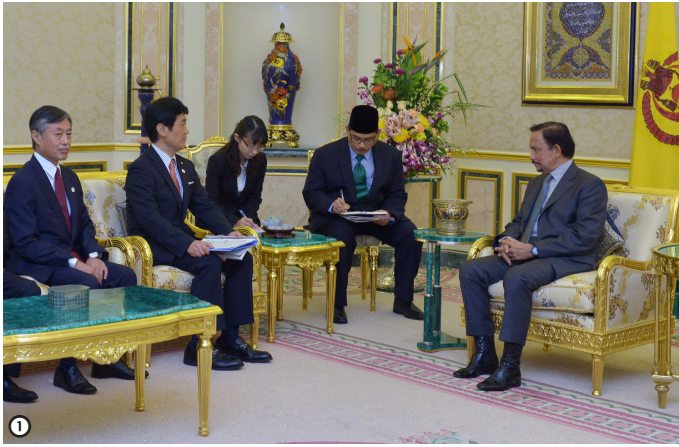


PHOTO: HERNE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN



PHOTO: MOHD. SHAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



PHOTO: MOHD. SHAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



PHOTO: AK. AMIRUNIZAM PG-HAJI MOHD.AU



PHOTO: AK. AMIRUNIZAM PG-HAJI MOHD.AU

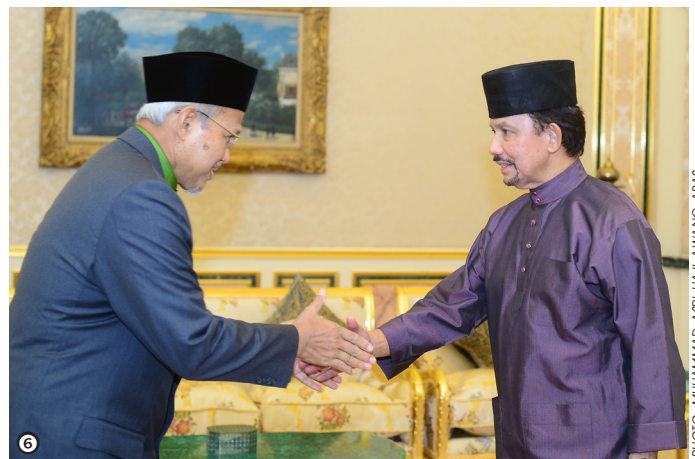


PHOTO: MUHAMMAD ASRI HAJI AWANG ABAS

His Majesty grants audiences

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:

- ① His Excellency Taro Kimura, a member of the House of Representatives and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan on May 3.
- ② His Excellency Mohamad Jameel Abdul Jaleel Hashim, the outgoing Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam on May 3.
- ③ His Excellency Kenichi Suganuma, the outgoing Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam on May 6.

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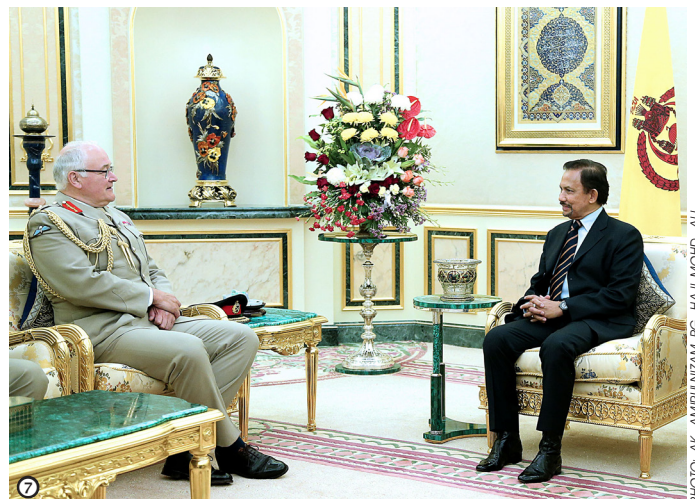


PHOTO: AK. AMIRUNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. AU

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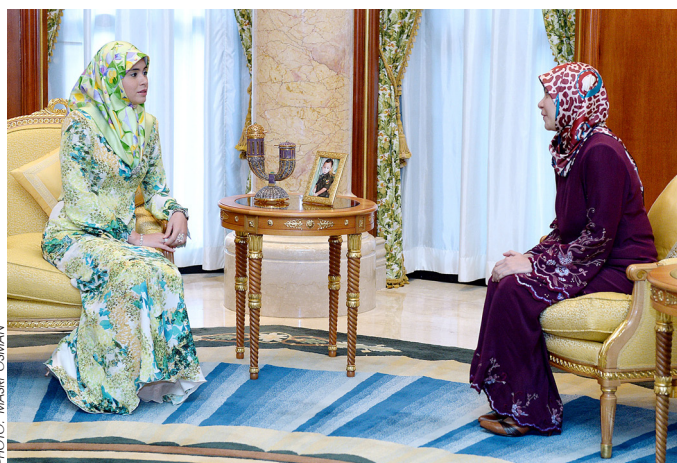
- ④ His Excellency (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, the newly appointed High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom on May 15.
- ⑤ His Excellency Brigadier (Rtd) Muhammad Zareef Malik, the newly appointed High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam on May 15.
- ⑥ The Honourable Sahibus Samahah Dato' Setia Haji Mohd. Tamyas bin Abd. Wahid, Dato' Seri Utama Diraja Mufti Selangor Darul Ehsan on May 20.
- ⑦ His Excellency General Sir Peter Wall, the Chief of the General Staff of the British Army, United Kingdom on May 22.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince grants audiences

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Deputy Sultan consented to receive in audience at Qashr Al-Meezan:

- ① His Excellency (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, the newly appointed High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom on May 21.
- ② His Excellency Brigadier (Rtd) Muhammad Zareef Malik, the newly appointed High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam on May 21.



Her Royal Highness grants audience

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah consented to receive in audience the spouse of the newly appointed High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom, Datin Nurhayana Janis binti Abdullah.

The audience took place at Qashr Al-Meezaan on May 21.

Congratulatory messages to the Republic of Korea and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

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

- Her Excellency Park Geun-hye, the President of the Republic of Korea on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Korea on May 16.
- His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein of Jordan, the royal family members and the people of Jordan on the occasion of their Independence Day, on May 25.

*** From frontpage
(Brunei Darussalam enforces Syariah Law)**

general offences are punishable by fines, imprisonment or both.

A second and third phase will come into force later this year and next year respectively.

The implementation came six months after His Majesty announced the gazette of Syariah Penal Code Order on 22nd October 2013.

Before its implementation, Brunei Darussalam's civil and criminal laws were equally applicable to all.

Under the new penal code, some laws would apply only to Muslims, others only to non-Muslims and the remainder applicable to all.

At the ceremony, His Majesty said the Syariah Penal Code was a revival of Islamic laws once practiced in the Sultanate centuries ago, and that it was his "personal obligation" to enforce God's laws.

His Majesty also said in his titah that, outside perception that the Penal Code, which is the Civil Criminal Law currently in use, had been rendered obsolete, was incorrect.

"Remember, our focus is on Allah The Al-Mighty alone, seeking His approval only, neither looking left or right in search of others' approval."

"We have never viewed others in a negative light because what they do is within their rights and up to their individual choices. We also do not expect them to accept and agree with us, but it is sufficient if they respect us as we duly respect them."

His Majesty added that the decision to implement the Syariah Penal Code Order 2013 was not made on a whim but it was to "act upon the command of Allah The Al-Mighty as prescribed in the Quran and Sunnah."

Meanwhile, The Minister of Religious Affairs, The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman in his welcoming remarks said, the provisions which would be enforced in the first phase were Part One or The Introduction, Part Two on General Exemptions, Part 3 on Collaboration, Part Four on Offences under Chapter 94 Section 1, and Chapters 184, 185, 189, 190 and 191 of Section Three, all offences liable to fines or imprisonment or both of Section Four and Part 5 on General Offences.

Apart from the enforcement of the Syariah Criminal Penal Code Order 2013, amendments were also made on three laws under the Syariah Court authority, with effect from now, namely the Islamic Religious Council Act and the Kadhi Courts, Section 77, Syariah Court Act, Section 184 and the Syariah Court Clarification Order, 2001.

The Attorney-General, The Honourable Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Hayati binti Pehin Orang kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohd. Salleh in a special talk, presented a detailed explanation of the present Brunei Darussalam justice system.

She also explained the system and



PHOTO: HAJI ARIFFIN MOHD. NOOR

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers his titah (royal speech) during the Brunei Islamic Religious Council (MUIB) meeting.

process of criminal justice following the implementation of the Order, especially for overlapping jurisdictions whereby the offence comes under the jurisdictions of both the Civil and Syariah Courts.

She said the enforcement of the Syariah Penal Code Order had opened a new chapter in the Brunei Darussalam legal system bringing along unique challenges.

However, the Civil Penal Code would still be maintained and continued to be carried out. This means that Brunei Darussalam has two criminal justice systems working hand in hand.

Datin Hajah Hayati added, the Syariah penal Code Order, 2013 would be used once the conditions required by the Islamic Law were fulfilled, of which we are made to understand has a very high sentencing standard that is beyond doubt.

Therefore, the preliminary investigation and litigation process for overlapping crimes existing in both the Penal Code and the Syariah penal Code Order, 2013 is as what is currently carried out.

A preliminary assessment would also be carried out to decide the suitable court so that an individual would not be tried twice for the same crime.

Such hand in hand authority has long existed in Brunei Darussalam.

What is more important now is for such justice system to be enhanced with the enforcement of the Syariah Penal Code Order, 2013.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Attorney General The Honourable Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Hayati binti Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohd. Salleh gives her speech.



PHOTO: HAJI ARIFFIN MOHD. NOOR

Among the members of the Diplomatic Corps based in Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the plenary session of the 24th ASEAN Summit.



* From frontpage
(His Majesty attends 24th ASEAN Summit)

must continue with their efforts in being resilient, and in building and strengthening the region's stability.

At the same time, they need to remain vigilant of external factors, as well as continue to enhance competitiveness in trade and investment, with the aim of moving ASEAN up the global value chain.

Towards this, His Majesty expressed his appreciations on the work done on the ASEAN business travel card and ASEAN visa-free travel.

He added that he was looking forward to its implementation by this year in order to further facilitate the movement of the business people within the region. This would further contribute to the connectivity of ASEAN.

On its efforts to build a community that is focused on the people, His Majesty said that ASEAN must continue with commitments made last year, in the areas of youth, health, women and children, disaster management and social protection, even after 2015.

"ASEAN should enhance the awareness on the efforts and continue to encourage the active participation and support. This was in mind when the proposal was made to have consular assistance arrangements for the nationals in third countries, this would allow the people to travel with the assurance that assistance can be provided, especially in countries where they have no representation," His Majesty said.

His Majesty added that as ASEAN was facing an increasingly complex geopolitical situation, there was a need to go beyond strengthening the internal institutions, especially the ASEAN Secretariat who plays a vital part in supporting the work. ASEAN

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is welcomed on arrival by His Excellency U Thein Sein, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and his wife, Madam Daw Khin Win at the opening ceremony of the 24th ASEAN Summit.



One of the plenary sessions during the 24th ASEAN Summit, Myanmar.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the 10th BIMP-EAGA Summit.



His Excellency U Thein Sein, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the current chairman of ASEAN.

* From page 6

(His Majesty attends 24th Asean Summit in Myanmar)

leaders should look into ensuring that the ASEAN Secretariat is provided with the necessary resources.

His Majesty looks forward to the recommendations of the High Level Task Force and hopes to see concrete actions taken as soon as possible.

His Majesty also expressed his confidence that there was much achievement and progress for ASEAN this year under the leadership of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.



Leaders and heads of delegations of the BIMP-EAGA Summit.



ASEAN leaders and heads of governments attend the Welcome Dinner hosted by the President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (centre).

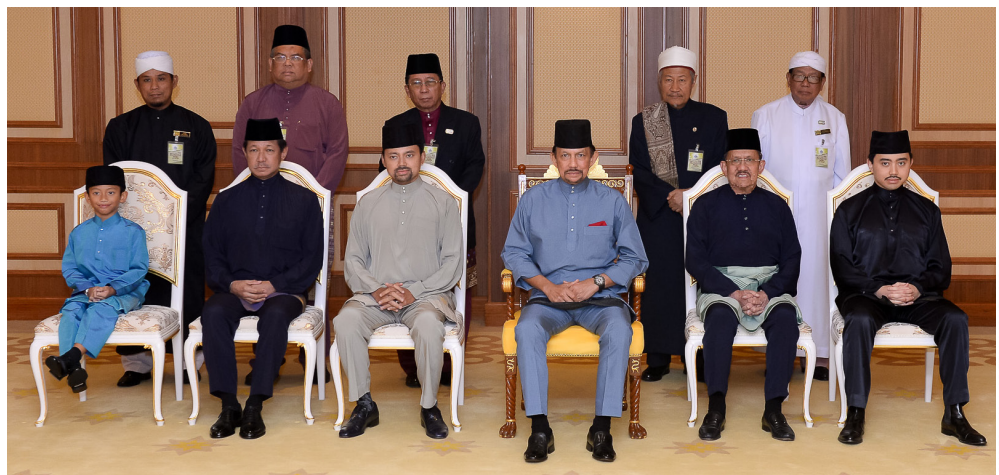
Safeguarding the Eminence of Islam



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers his *Titah* at the Isra' Mi'raj celebration at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to present the Outstanding Imam 1435 Hijrah Award to the Imam of Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque, Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamidon.



His Majesty and the royal family consent to attend the Isra' Miraj celebration.

BERAKAS, May 27 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mui'zzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the Isra' Mi'raj national-level Celebration, held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

His Majesty also consented to the enactment of the Brunei Technical Education Institutes Order 2013, the issuance of the Technical and Vocational Education Transformation White Paper, and the Brunei Darussalam Technical Education Upgrading Plan 2013-2018.

Through this transformation, students would be able to attain the skills, knowledge and other values for lifelong learning, as well as undergo beneficial training.

His Majesty was greeted on arrival at the ICC by the Minister of Religious Affairs, The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman as Chairman of the Eminent Islamic Days Glorification Executive Committee for the Year 1435 Hijrah, and other Executive Committee and working committee members.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, 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 Wakeel were also present.

His Majesty also highlighted the importance of mosques as well as religious and Arabic school buildings.

His Majesty stressed that as symbols of Islamic eminence, religious and Arabic school buildings should be distinct in features and their construction running smoothly.

This is to ensure that the religious education in the country is not discarded or left behind simply because of planning and construction delays.

Considering the special status of mosques, His Majesty emphasised that such buildings must conform to the desired characteristics such as design, minaret, parking space and sound system.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also pointed out that although the historically significant Isra' Mi'raj of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wassalam was commemorated on every 27th of Rejab, there had never been a dull moment in celebrating it.

The Monarch added that true Muslims welcomed it with joy because commemorating Isra' Mi'raj was always filled with beneficial lessons and examples.

This year's celebration was enlivened

with the presentation of the Excellent Imam and Excellent Bilal Awards.

The Minister of Religious Affairs, in his welcoming speech stated that the awards were meant as a form of recognition and appreciation to the recipients, Imams and Bilals throughout the entire country as they strived to raise their quality of service.

The minister added that the awards would also encourage them to step up their efforts and initiatives in setting a good illustrative example, with quality, as well as to exercise good leadership and competence in further advancing mosques, suraus and prayer halls throughout the country.

The theme of this year's Isra' Mi'raj celebration was "Prayer, the Core Strength of the Ummah."

The historic Isra' and Mi'raj among other things brought the command of praying five times a day for Muslims. As a pillar of Islam, prayer constitutes the core and litmus of the strength of Muslims, be it in the aspects of belief, piety and devotion towards Allah the Almighty.

Whenever a pillar of Islam is raised, it means the shaping of Muslims that are resilient and strong in faith and belief and who are not easily swayed by external elements that attempt to rival the eminence of Islam.

Isra' means Night Journey and Mi'raj means Ascension To The Heavenly Skies.

His Majesty pays last respect to Almarhum the 34th Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan

PERAK DARUL RIDZUAN, May 29 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam paid last tribute to Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah Ghafarullahulah, the 34th Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan, at Istana Iskandariah in Kuala Kangsar.

Shortly after arriving at Istana Iskandariah, His Majesty consented to sign the Condolence Book. The monarch then consented to attend the Istiadat Ziarah Penghormatan Terakhir (Ceremonial Last Tribute) to extend last respects to the late Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan, at the Balai Rong Seri of the palace.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien. Also present was the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim.

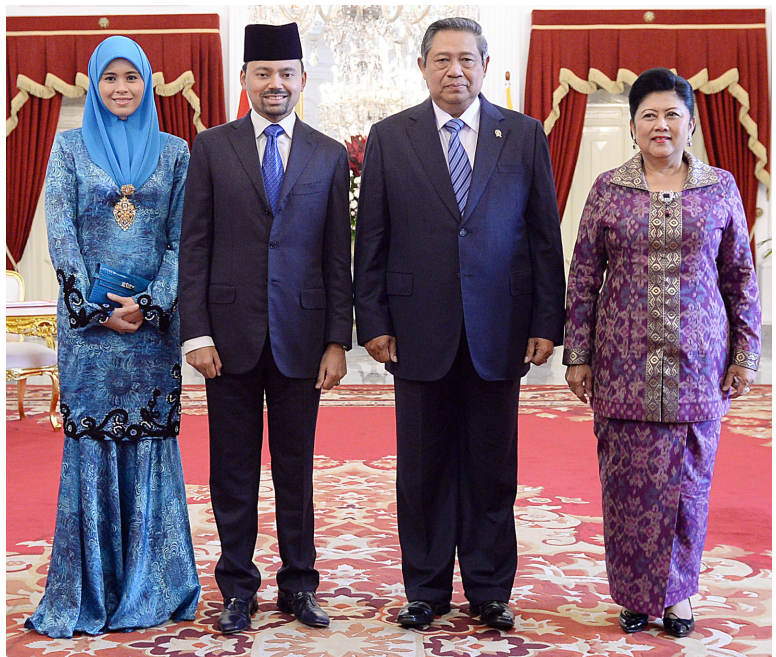


His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to sign the Condolence Book upon arriving at the Istana Iskandariah, Perak Darul Ridzuan.

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

HRH The Crown Prince pays official visit to Indonesia

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah with His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, and Ibu Ani Bambang Yudhoyono.



PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN & AZMAH HAJI AHAD

JAKARTA, May 2 - 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 paid a Courtesy Call on the President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, and wife, Ibu Ani Bambang Yudhoyono.

Their Royal Highnesses were in Indonesia for a five-day official visit.

Accompanying His Royal Highness

and Her Royal Highness were Their Royal Highnesses' son and daughter, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah.

His Royal Highness expressed his appreciation and gratitude on the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and the delegation.

His Royal Highness also expressed his appreciation to the Government of the Indonesia for awarding him the

honorary member badge or insignia of the Republic of Indonesia's Special Commandos Force.

Their Royal Highnesses' official visit was on the invitation of Indonesia's Minister of Defence, His Excellency Purnomo Yusgiantoro.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince, whom is the General of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, also held a meeting with the Indonesian Minister of Defence, His

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His Royal Highness The Crown Prince with His Excellency Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin, the Deputy Minister of Defence of the Republic of Indonesia.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince delivers the *sabda* during a lunch banquet ceremony.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince consents to receive a souvenir from the Head of National Disaster of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Syamsul Maarif.

* From page 9
(HRH The Crown Prince pays official visit to Indonesia)

Excellency Purnomo Yusgiantoro, at the Ministry of Defence.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah was conferred an honorary commander brevet of the Republic of Indonesia's Marinir or Marines.

The Marine Corps is one of the major Commando Units of the Navy of the

National Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia.

His Royal Highness, as the Chairman of the Brunei Darussalam National Disaster Council, also consented to visit the National Disaster Prevention Body (BNPB), Indonesia.

His Royal Highness was briefed on the

function and operations of BNPB as well as challenges faced.

The briefing also included the background of the ASEAN Coordination Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management.

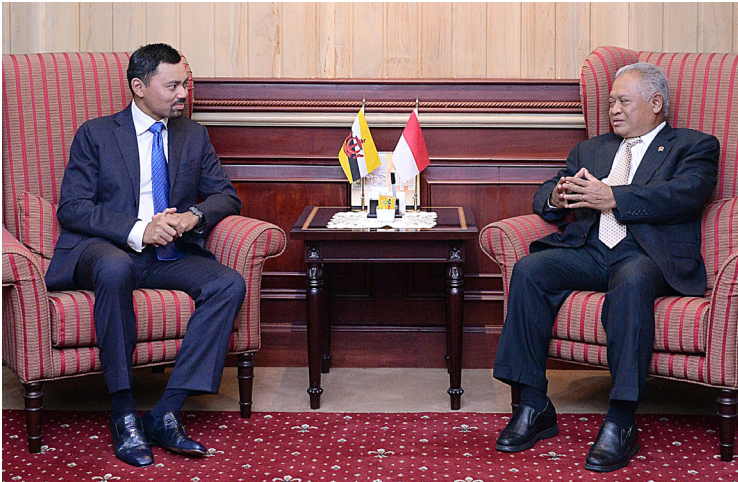
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His Royal Highness The Crown Prince consents to a group photo in front of the Sorwo Edhie Wibowo Building.

* From page 10

(HRH The Crown Prince pays official visit to Indonesia)



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince with His Excellency Purnomo Yusgiantoro, the Indonesian Minister of Defence.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince puts on the Special Forces Command Red Beret.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah consents to visit Indonesian Mini Garden (left) and West Sumatra Pavillion (right).

HRH The Crown Prince tours various National Development Projects in Brunei-Muara



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince is briefed by Acting Director of the Directorate of Development and Works Services, Ministry of Defence, Dayang Hajah Marliyah binti Abdullah Fung.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 26 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office, consented to inspect 11 project sites of the 10th National Development Plan (NDP) in the Brunei-Muara District.

The Crown Prince, as Chairman of the National Committee of the 10th NDP, was briefed on the status of the projects and a tour of its vicinities at each site.

The visits were a continuation of His Royal Highness's tour of several projects under the 10th NDP in the Tutong district three days ago.

During his tour to sites in the Brunei-Muara district, His Royal Highness visited the \$60 million Defence Academy in Kg Sungai Akar, which will estimate complete its construction later this year.

His Royal Highness also toured education projects that were still under construction, including phase one of the Aircraft Department of the Sultan Saiful Rijal Technical College (MTSSR) on Jalan Utama Berakas and Sungai Akar Secondary School.

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* From page 11

(Crown Prince tours various National Development Projects in Brunei-Muara)

The BND19 million Aircraft Department will be completed later this year, while the Sungai Akar Secondary School that costs about BND22 million will be completed this June.

Phase 2 of the Tungku-Jerudong interchange was also part of the Crown Prince's visit. The second phase of the BND29 million interchange will be completed in 2015.

As part of tour, the Crown Prince visited Masjid Kg Madang/Manggis site that costs over BND4 million and will be able to accommodate 2,419 congregants. The mosque will be completed by the middle of this year.

He also consented to inspect a site for a government complex project. The Anti-Corruption Bureau at Old Airport Road is anticipated to have a new building later this year at an estimated cost of BND2 million.

Completed projects that were visited included the extension building of the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin College that was handed over to its principal earlier this year and the Information Department's extended new building.

Next, His Royal Highness toured The Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Institute of Health Science and the Faculty of Science at Universiti Brunei Darussalam, and Phase 3 of the Institut Teknologi Brunei's extension.

At each site, the Crown Prince signed a commemorative parchment and joined a group photo session.

The presence of His Royal Highness The Crown Prince throughout the working tour clearly reflected the high level of commitment towards the progress of the implementation of development projects under the 10th NDP, in line with the Brunei Vision 2035's goal of giving Brunei Darussalam an "advanced nation" status.

It also portrayed the continued support from His Royal Highness for the efforts of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in ensuring that government agencies remain constantly aware of, and receptive to current developments, so as to guarantee the prosperity and well-being of the citizens and residents in the country.

The Minister of Education, the Minister of Development, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office and the Acting Minister of Religious Affairs were also present at the sites.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince receives a briefing by PWD's Technical Services Director, Dayang Hajah Maihani binti Haji Abdul Hamid.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince receives a briefing on a project site, the Tungku Connector Road Construction - Phase 2 Jerudong.

PPPNBD holds Quran recital competition



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah consents to present a prize to one of the winners.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 30 - Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah consented to present prizes to the winners of the Al-Quran reading competition 2014 organised by the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam (PPPNBD).

The competition had five categories; Brownies aged seven to 12 years, Girl Guides and Rangers aged 13 to 16, Young Leaders aged 17 to 21, Adult Leaders aged 22 and above, and Commissioners and Council members aged 30 and above.

The nationwide competition involved members of girl guides from three districts, with the final held at the International of Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

The Chief Commissioner of PPPNBD, Dayang Hajah Siti Hafsa Hajah Abdul Halim, in her welcoming speech said the competition aimed to enhance reading and understanding of the Quran among the association's members.

She also said that PPPNBD would launch a new community project in June, named "Projek Telekong", that would focus on spiritual education, cleanliness, and health.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah among the delegates attending the reception and dinner at the Emirates Palace.

PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah during a session at the Abu Dhabi Ascent 2014.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan sign a MoU on the establishment of a Brunei-UAE Joint Commission.

BRUNEI - UAE ESTABLISH JOINT COMMISSION

ABU DHABI, May 4 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the establishment of a Brunei-UAE Joint Commission.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed

Bolkiah was in United Arab Emirates attending the Abu Dhabi Ascent, a two-day meeting.

While in Abu Dhabi, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah paid a courtesy call on His Highness Sheikh Abdullah at the Etihad Towers in Abu Dhabi.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the bilateral relations between the two countries and ways of enhancing

them in all spheres.

They also discussed the agenda of the current Abu Dhabi Ascent, which was climate change.

The Abu Dhabi Ascent was a meeting to prepare for the United Nations Climate Summit, which will be held in September 2014 in New York.

The meeting was jointly organised by the United Nations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates.



A group photo session of the leaders and heads of delegations of 17th Ministerial meeting of NAM.

PHOTOS: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah attends 17th Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau for NAM

ALGIERS, THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA, May 28 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the 17th Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

"NAM has reached a new stage of globalisation in that other countries around the globe should share the full benefits of such development as friends and together share the happiness and pains," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness also touched on the continued efforts of the NAM movement in supporting the Palestinian cause.

The two-day 17th NAM meeting was declared open by Algeria's Home Affairs Minister, His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra.

The ministers and heads of NAM delegations also attended a dinner hosted by Algerian Prime Minister, His Excellency Abdelmalek Sellal.

In addition, His Royal Highness held a

bilateral meeting with the new Secretary-General of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation, His Excellency Iyad Ameen Madani.

NAM is made up of 120 member states and 17 observer nations representing the interests and priorities of developing countries from Africa and Asia.

Founded in Belgrade in 1961, NAM aims to ensure the national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of non-aligned countries.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah with the Prime Minister of The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, His Excellency Abdelmalek Sellal.

HRH Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah warns athletes against doping

BERAKAS, May 21 - Athletes wanting to become part of the national squad and represent the country in any regional and international sports events are always expected to meet all the requirements, however strict they are.

Meanwhile, those found positive of doping while representing the country would need to immediately return to the country and must pay back all costs of participating in the event. This includes the flight tickets, accommodation, clothes, living allowances and others.

The reminder came from His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC), at the meeting of the National Athlete Selection and Evaluation Executive Committee, held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas.

His Royal Highness suggested to the Brunei Darussalam Anti-Doping Committee (BDADC) and the Sports Science and Research Centre (SMRC) to reveal the list of prohibited substances to all the athletes, sports associations and coaches.

Random doping tests from time to time would be done to prevent the consumption of banned substances.

BDNOC will also be involved in financing and funding some of the tests, which will be conducted at certain times before the date of the "entry by name" of particular sport events.

His Royal Highness also stressed on the need to



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah during the BDNOC Meeting.

find a way of instilling effectively the sense of responsibility in national athletes to maintain the good name of Brunei Darussalam as well as being aware of the consequences if they chose to take banned substances.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair was also present at the meeting.

BDNOC President officiates Asian Games Fun Run

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 25 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC), consented to officiate the Asian Games Fun Run 2014.

The run drew 780 participants comprising students from the Sports School and other selected primary schools as well as athletes, paralympic athletes and sports associations.

It started at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin and ended at the nearby Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Shopping Complex.

His Royal Highness also consented to tour a mini exhibition highlighting on anti-doping through an interactive counter.

The Asian Games is held every four years.

Approximately 20,000 athletes, officials and media are expected to be involved in the 17th Asian Games in September 2014.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah consents to join the Asian Games Fun Run.

HRH Prince 'Abdul Malik launches Labour Department's new headquarters

BANDAR SERI BERGAWAN, May 8 - His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik officially launched the Labour Department's new BND6.8M headquarters building at Jalan Menteri Besar.

His Royal Highness was greeted on arrival by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, the Acting Commissioner of Labour, Awang Haji Rani, as well as Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries at the Ministry of Home Affairs.

His Royal Highness then consented to sign a plaque commemorating the official opening of the four-storey building, located just a few metres away from the Department of Immigration and National Registration which previously housed the Labour Department.

The launching of the new building by His Royal Highness coincided with his work attachment with the Ministry of Home Affairs beginning on 8th May 2014.

Construction work was fully completed in August 2013.

It was one of the projects under the 2007-2012 National Development Plan.



PHOTO: DK NUR HAFILAH PG. OSMAN

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik officiates the new Labour Department Building at Jalan Menteri Besar.

HRH Prince 'Abdul Malik awards certificates to IGS graduates

BERAKAS, May 23 - His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik was the guest of honour at the Convocation Ceremony of International Graduate School (IGS), held at International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

Out of the 557 students, 84 graduated with a Bachelor degree, 172 with higher education diplomas, 72 with national diplomas, 134 pre-national diplomas and 94 with skills training certificates. All of them were students in the Field of Business and Information Technology.

IGS College chief executive officer, Pengiran Datin Hajah Fatimah Pengiran Setia Jaya Pengiran Haji Abd Momin, in her speech, said in response to the nation's call to produce more technically-sound graduates especially in the field of Multimedia, IGS College had further strengthened their collaboration with Limkokwing University of Creative Technology (LUCT) by introducing four diploma programmes in Graphic Design Technology, Advertising, Multimedia and Broadcasting.

"In our effort to continuously increase the education opportunities at tertiary level, we are currently working on introducing foundation courses and new degree programmes. We hope that with these new programmes we are able to cater for the needs of the nation in diversifying the skills of Bruneians wishing to explore creative technologies and newly enhanced business programmes," she said.

The Minister of Education, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Haji Awang Abu Bakar was also present at the ceremony.



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik consents to present a certificate to one of the IGS College graduates.



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

Among the students of the 557 IGS graduates at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam welcomes new members

Bandar Seri Begawan, May 4 - Another milestone was marked for the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam following the presentation of badges and appointment letters to its new members.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, as the President of the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam, consented to present over 200 badges of various ranks within the association, held at the Indoor Stadium in Berakas.

The recipients included 98 new members whom received Tenderfoot Badges marking their successful completion of the Tenderfoot Test which they sat three month after joining the association.

The Tenderfoot Badge is the main criterion for the member to take part in any of the association's activities as well as the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scout.

According to Chief Commissioner, Hajah Siti Hafsa binti Haji Abdul Halim, the association had registered over 10,000 members for the past 30 years with the year 2013 recording a total of 1,800 new members.

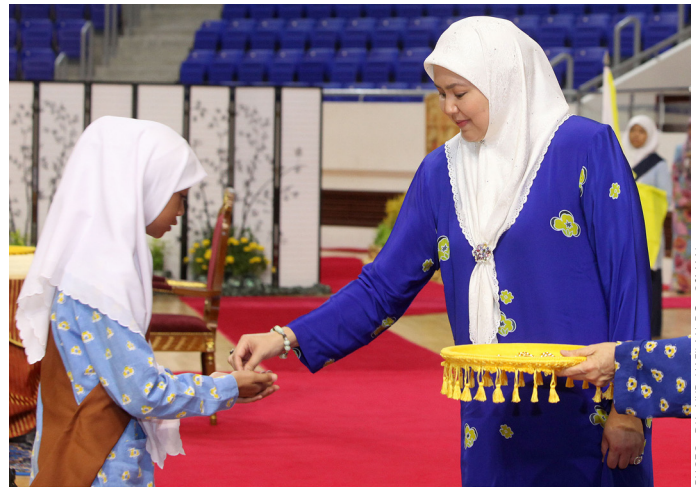


PHOTO: DR. NUR HAFILAH PG. OSMAN

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah consents to present a badge to one of the girl guides.

"These members are still very active," she said. "Once you are a guide, you are always a guide," she added.

Following the association's council meeting earlier in April, youth leaders were also elected into the executive committee as part of the association's succession plan.

The association's strategic plan would be renewed and its plan of action would also be reviewed this year, stressed the Chief Commissioner.

Brunei celebrates 3rd National Family Day

May 4 - Brunei Darussalam marked its 3rd National Family Day with family activities being held simultaneously across the country.

Celebrated on the first Sunday of May, the National Family Day is an acknowledgment of the importance of strong and harmonious family bonds towards a sustainable and developed society as well as highly integrated national development.

The annual celebration began with the mass Maghrib and Isya prayers, followed by the recitation of Surah Yassin and Doa Kesyukuran at all mosques and surau on May 3rd throughout the country.

The celebration, organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in collaboration with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs, was held at nine selected zones.

In the Brunei-Muara District, the early morning Suboh prayer and talk took place at the Kampong Pulaie Mosque for zone 1 and at the Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque for zone 2 respectively.

The family day celebration for zone 1 was held at the Track and Field of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sport Complex and at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Silver Jubilee Park, for zone 2.

For the Brunei-Muara zone 3, the Suboh Prayer and talk were held at the Pengiran Muda Abdul Malik Mosque in Kampung Tungku, Gadong, while the Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam Mosque in Kampung Jerudong was the venue for zone 4.

In the Belait District, the Suboh Prayer and talk were held at the Al-Mashor Mosque in Kampung Sungai Mau for zone 1 and the Pandan National Housing Scheme mosque for zone 2. The field events were held at the Sungai Mau Multi-purpose Hall and at the Silver Jubilee Park in Kuala Belait.

Meanwhile the Suboh Prayer and talk were held at the Hassanal Bolkiah Mosque in Tutong Town and the Hajah



PHOTO: HAJI ARIFFIN MOHD. NOOR

Deputy Minister of Education, Dato Seri Setia Haji Yusoff during the opening of the Family Day celebration.

Aminah Prayer Hall at Kampung Long Mayan respectively. The celebrations took place at the designated zones.

In Temburong District, the Suboh prayer and talk were held at the Utama Muhammad Salleh Mosque in Bangar Town while the celebrations were held at the Bumiputera Business Complex and the open Wharf area in Bangar Town.

Speaking at the media conference at the celebration, the Deputy Minister of Culture Youth and Sports, Datin Paduka Hajah Adina as the Deputy Co-chairperson of the celebration, explained that among the objective of the celebration was to strengthen and improve family well-being through efficient joint-program toward generating quality community of family institution in the community development in the country.

This year's theme was "Keluarga Berwawasan" or "Families With Vision".

Agrifood Industry Open Day



Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, The Honourable Pehin Dato Haji Yahya views one of the products exhibited during the Agrifood Industrial open day.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 8 - The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Haji Yahya officiated the launch of the Agrifood Industry Open Day in Mukim Kilanas.

According to the minister, agrifood had the potential to be expanded.

He revealed the output of agrifood yields had increased from 9.82 percent in 2012 to 37.3 percent with the production value of the sector reaching nearly BND87 million in 2013.

The agrifood sector in the country is mostly being undertaken by small and medium size enterprises (SME).

Currently, there are 331 entrepreneurs involved in the agrifood sectors.

Two cooking books were also launched on the Agrifood Industry Open Day namely the 'Variety of Brunei Traditional Fruit Cooking' and 'Variety of Brunei Fruits Contemporary Recipe'.

Brunei signs MoU with Korea Telecommunications Operators Association

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 12 - The InfoComm Federation of Brunei (IFB) will be collaborating with Korea Telecommunications Operators Association (KTOA) in the field of information and communication technology (ICT) for the next two years.

The cooperation between the two countries was finalised during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Under the MoU, both parties agreed to cooperate in the ICT sector where "joint expertise, resources, research activities and combined efforts can accelerate progress towards mutual goals," according to a statement issued by the IFB.

Abdul Ghani, Chairman of IFB had signed the MoU for the IFB, while Vice Chairman Mr. Jeong Seon Seol, had signed on behalf of KTOA.



IFB Chairman Abdul Ghani (left) and Deputy Chairman of KTOA, Mr. Jeong Seon Seol exchange documents after signing the MoU.



Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health, Dr Hajah Rahmah and Master of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore, Professor Dr Lim Shih Hui sign the MoU.

More local specialists set to train in Singapore

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 13 - More Bruneian doctors would pursue their specialist training in Singapore, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Singapore's Academy of Medicine.

Signing on behalf of MoH was Dr Hajah Rahmah, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Professional and Technical Services, while Singapore's Academy of Medicine was represented by its Master, Professor Dr Lim Shih Hui.

The ceremony took place at the Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

The MoU also marked another milestone in the cooperation between the two countries.

Sultanate chairs Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting in Geneva

GENEVA, May 18 - The Minister of Health, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan, spoke on the importance of strengthening the Health Care system with the active involvement of non-health sector to observe the health aspects in all policies.

The minister made the remarks in his speech while chairing the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting in Geneva.

The meeting served as a platform for promoting and further enhancing cooperation and coordination of effective actions in tackling various health threats and challenges.

"Commonwealth Health Ministers

Meeting 2014 need to focus on the vital role of Health in the objective of a sustainable development, as the continuity of the Millennium Development Objective that ends in 2015," said the minister.

Fifty-three Health Ministers from member nations as well as the Commonwealth Secretary General, His Excellency Kamalesh Sharma attended the meeting, which focused on discussions concerning Health Sector Priorities in the Post-2015 development Agenda, including the implementation of the new Health Objective.

The meeting also gave particular attention to the important agenda on the

challenges and threats of antimicrobial resistance.

The Commonwealth member nations also shared the experience and best practices pertaining to strengthening the Health System, immunisation programme and diet.

It also served as an opportunity to participants to share the development of the Commonwealth Initiatives in the field of Health, particularly on the methods and necessary measures in prevention against blindness, the Commonwealth Online Hub Programme for Commonwealth health professionals and strengthening of the Public Health Laboratory Project.

At the end of the meeting, the Commonwealth Health Ministers agreed to adopt the Commonwealth Health Ministers Statement 2014, which agreed to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

This includes universal health coverage focusing on continuity of Millennium Development Objective implementation, Accelerating Reduction in Mortality rates of infants, children and expectant mothers, Implementation of life-long health approach by focusing on morbidity, Non-communicable diseases, Strengthening of Health Care System, Equal Access to Medicines, and Ensuring continued Health relations with the objective of other developments.

"Universal Health Care focusing on Aging and Good Health" has been set as the theme for the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting 2015.

The theme of this year's meeting was "Post-2015 Commonwealth Health Agenda: Strengthening Health Policy and System."



PHOTO: MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Minister of Health, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan presents a plaque to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Kamalesh Sharma.



Brunei defeats Johor in final male kumite

PERLIS, May 27 - The Brunei karate-do team returned to a hero's welcome after Mohd Izzuddin Irfan bin Mohd Faizal won a gold medal in the Sukma XVII Perlis 2014 by defeating Julius Goh of Johor in the final of the male Kumite.

The gold medalist under 84kg category, Chew Han Tiong said that it was team spirit that spurred his team to be more consistent and exemplary in every event contested.

In the meantime, Penang emerged as the overall champions in karate-do collecting eight gold medals, one silver and five bronze.



The Brunei Karate-do team.

PHOTO: MUHAMMAD ASRI HAJI AWANG ABAS

A blast from the past: Jerudong Park Playground finally reopens



PHOTOS: HAJI ARIFFIN MOHD. NOOR & MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



JERUDONG, May 17

An excited crowd gathered close for the unveiling of the long-awaited Jerudong Park Playground.

All eyes were on His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel as he swiftly pressed a button.

Simultaneously all the lights switched on, emitting a spectrum of colours, bringing the park to life.

However, the audience did not have time to gasp at the sudden stunning glow as glittering confetti suddenly popped over the fountain area and breathtaking fireworks burst over them lighting up the night sky.

The deafening sound of the fireworks even failed to completely drown the cheers of the crowd. In fact, the joyful shouts grew louder as they clapped and watched the spectacular projections brought more rainbows of colours.

Once crowned as the only major modern amusement park in Southeast Asia, the wonderland first opened in 1994. And it instantly became a favourite destination of young and old alike, seeking fun and thrill through its various amusement rides.

However, it was closed for almost a year due to renovation.

And it was officially reopened again by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and his sister, Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

Approximately 3,000 people, comprising of students, parents and teachers, as well as representatives of government agencies witnessed the event.

One of the new attractions featured in the park is the Mini Golf putting green, which was designed by Craig Bartlett, a world class mini golf designer from Australia.

The park also offers other facilities such as the food kiosks, a merchandise shop, and other conveniences to cater for the visitors' needs.

The Jerudong Park Playground operates from 5.00pm to 10.00pm on Tuesday, 4.30pm to 10.30pm on Thursday, 3.00pm to 10.30pm on Friday, 10.00am to 11.00pm on Saturday, and 10.00am to 10.30pm on Sunday. It closes every Monday and Wednesday.

The tickets ranging from \$15 for adult to \$40 for a family package of two adults and two children can be purchased at the entrance gate.