



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
Prime Minister's Office

JUNE, 2016
VOLUME 31 ISSUE 6

Al-Quran as a Guide to distinguish the right and wrong

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 22 – The halal (allowed) and haram (prohibited) food issue should be given detailed study and attention following the guidelines of true Islamic laws not just for the sake of selling the halal certificates and permits.

The matter was stated by 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) at the Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration.

Furthermore, His Majesty stressed that Brunei Darussalam must not become like other places where deviation and law breaking by eateries and business premises are often heard.

His Majesty stated that Nuzul Al-Quran is an important event in the world of Islam during Ramadhan. Al-Quran, also known as An-Nur, means to illuminate; or Al-Furqan, a book that can guide us to distinguish between the right and wrong; and Az-Zikir, the book that reminds. Then, in the Al-Quran Surah Al-Baqarah verse 2, meaning; "This is the Book (Al-Quran), there is no doubt in it; it is guidance for the pious."

Thus, the Monarch outlines the government's measures to endear Al-Quran to the country's Muslim community. Among them is by introducing Al-Quran as a subject in all government and private primary schools until higher levels as well as by opening Al-Quran reading classes at mosques, *surau*, and religious halls. The measure, His Majesty adds, is implemented so that Muslims in the country are always guided by Al-Quran.

The event started with the recital of Al-Fatihah led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, followed by a welcoming remark by the Minister of Religious Affairs as the Chairman of the 1437 Hijrah Islamic Auspicious Days Celebrations Executive Committee and members of the Executive Committee and other Working Committees.

The event was organised with the collaboration of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Data Stream Technology (DST), as an ongoing process of enhancing and strengthening the integration of public sectors and private sectors in promoting the greatness of Islam.

The Minister also took the opportunity to announce that this year, a total of 209 candidates have joined the Musabaqah (competition) in memorising and understanding. These two aspects are essential in affirming the actual meaning; this was mentioned in Surah Shad verse 29, stating that Allah has



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) during the Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for the year of 1437 Hijrah / 2016 Masihi.

entrusted to us the Al-Quran for us to understand the verses and the teachings of the Al-Quran.

A special talk entitled Al-Quran as the Cure of Spiritual and Physical Ailments was delivered by Dr. Abang Hadzmin bin Abang Haji Taha, the Assistant Ra'ees of Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB). Among other matters highlighted in the talk was the reading and understanding of the Al-Quran will naturally result in good things for anyone who practises it. Reading the Al-Quran has special blessings and is a remedy for the soul and the body. The talk touched on the abundant blessings that Allah bestows upon Brunei Darussalam. They include iman or faith and the religion of Islam that enables the country to practise Islam not only in peace and harmony, but also in an atmosphere which is very conducive under a kind and just ruler. The country is very thankful for having people who have a good command of Quranic knowledge and are able to produce a Malay translation of *Mushaf Brunei Darussalam*.



3. His Majesty receives audience



4. His Majesty inspects development of Arabic Institution



4. His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik launches SMARTER EDGE Centre



6. 2,000 youths participate in National Tadarus



7. His Majesty's Bestowment of Personal Gift



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JUNE 2016 - VOLUME 31 ISSUE 6

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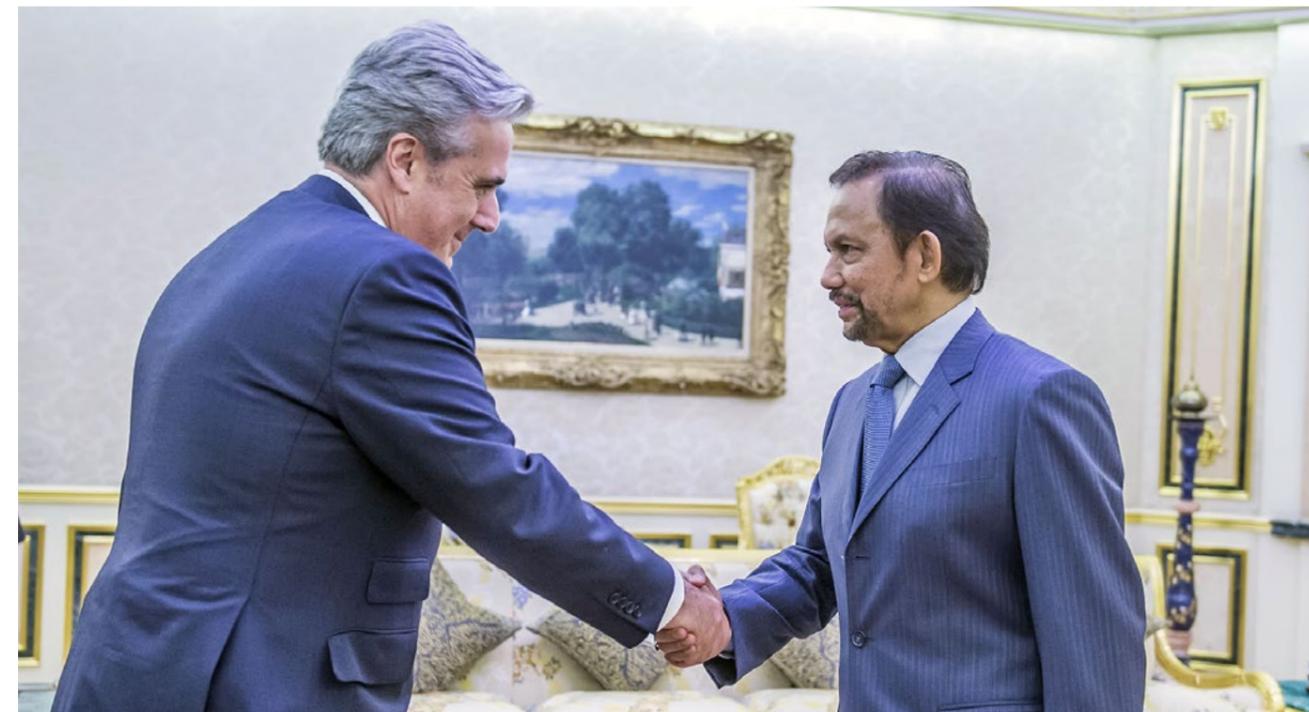
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His Majesty receives audience

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:



His Excellency Mark Garnier MP, United Kingdom Trade Envoy to Brunei Darussalam on June 2.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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 has consented to send congratulatory messages to:

1. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom and His Excellency The Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom as well as the Government and the people of United Kingdom on the occasion of Her Excellency's 90th Birthday on June 11.
2. His Excellency Benigno C. Aquino III, President of the Republic of Philippines, the Government and the people of the Republic of Philippines on the occasion of the Republic of Philippines 118th Independence Day on June 12.
3. His Excellency Vladimir Putin, President of The Russian Federation, as well as the Government and people of the Russian Federation on the occasion of the 25th Russian Day on June 12.
4. His Excellency Rodrigo Duterte, President of the Republic of Philippines on the occasion of his appointment as the President of the Republic of Philippines on June 30.

His Majesty sends message of condolences

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 has consented to send a message of condolences to:

1. His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey, the Government and the people of the Republic of Turkey on the terrorist attack at the Ataturk Airport on June 29.

His Majesty inspects development of the Arabic Institution

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 6 – His Majesty made a series of visits to three institutes for closer inspection on the conditions of their facilities, this shows how dedicated and concerned His Majesty is regarding the welfare of the students of the school. His Majesty visited Sekolah Persediaan Arab Bandar Seri Begawan (SPABSB), Sekolah Ugama Arab Menengah Perempuan Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit (SUAMPRIPAD) and the Hassanal Bolkiah Boys' Arabic Secondary School (SMALHB) respectively.

His Majesty is very concerned regarding the development of the institutes' education quality and is very attentive in inspecting them. The Arabic institution is an interdependent education of general and religious knowledge with Malay, English and Arabic as its medium.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam interacting with one of the students.



His Majesty taking a group photo with the teaching committee of the Hassanal Bolkiah Boys' Arabic Secondary School (SMALHB).

His Majesty's inspections were not just limited to the students' facilities only, but also includes others such as the staff room, parking space, pedestrians, mass hall, meeting rooms and the *surau* (prayer room). His Majesty was accompanied by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs.

Throughout the visit, His Majesty was able to observe the students (from SUAMPRIPAD) who were at that time having their mock exams and in SMALHB His Majesty was welcomed with a showcase of the institution's School Gallery containing 50 years worth of history. His Majesty concluded his visit by performing the *Zuhur* prayer together with the SMALHB students.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam interacting with the students of SUAMPRIPAD.



His Majesty checking the exam papers during the visit to Sekolah Persediaan Arab Bandar Seri Begawan (SPABSB).

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik launches SMARTER EDGE Centre

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 1 – The Society for the Management of Autism Related issues in Training, Education and Resources (SMARTER) will reach its 15th year of foundation this September; having been through a long journey in securing support for autism in this country. The association acts as an advocate for awareness for autism, so the community can show their compassion, empathy and support to not just those having autism but their families as well.

Today, the association made another history by officially opening the SMARTER's newest centre for Early Development Growth and Enabling (EDGE). The centre was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah. Accompanying His Royal Highness were the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusoff; the Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi; and the President of Brunei SMARTER, Malai Haji Abdullah bin Malai Haji Othman.

During the opening ceremony, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik awarded certificates of appreciation to the local companies who have contributed to the SMARTER's welfare. His Royal Highness then received a *pesambah* (souvenir) from the association. His Royal Highness was then invited to take a closer look at the facilities.

The centre was built in order to provide the best environment, therefore the organisation has developed unique strategies and curriculum that have been approved by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The SMARTER Association has introduced new programmes and their own unique activities as well as curriculum known as Social, Training, Educational and Psychological (STEP). These developed programmes acquire all the necessary criterias such as having easy access, and having the capability to teach at a lower cost, technology and organisation. To date, the Brunei SMARTER Association has established three centres; one in Kuala Belait, the second one in Kampung Jangsak, both opened in 2004 and it's latest one, the EDGE centre in Kampung Mata-Mata.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik delivering his *sabda* (royal speech) during the launching of SMARTER EDGE Centre at Kampung Mata-Mata.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik observing a learning session at SMARTER EDGE Centre during the visit.



His Royal Highness in a group photo with SMARTER EDGE Centre members.

2,000 youths participate in National Tadarus

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 22 – A total of 2,000 male participants from government agencies, youth associations, students and individuals joined the 1437 Hijrah/2016 Masihi Youth Tadarus Gathering Event, held at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah in Kiarong.

The event was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) and supervised by the Youth and Sport Department (YSD). Gracing the event was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah. His Royal Highness was welcomed by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusoff and the Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman.

The event commenced with the recital of Al-Fatihah, led by Awang Sadun bin Suhaili, a student from Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (ITQSHHB), then followed by the Khatam ceremony.

The reading of the Tahtim and Dikir Marhaban was read by the Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) Dzikir Team, meanwhile the reading of *Doa Allah Peliharankan Sultan* was led by Awang Sadun bin Suhaili.

This was followed by a mass prayer, led by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustafa bin Haji Murat. Also present at the ceremony were the Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries from various ministries.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik at the Youth Tadarus Gathering Event for the year of 1437 Hijrah / 2016 Masihi.

The ceremony promotes a rise in awareness among youths in the reading and understanding of the Al-Quran as a guide in life, as well as to boost the understanding and team work between the agencies involved in the development of youths.



His Royal Highness joining the Zuhur mass prayer.

Tahlil ceremony at the Royal Mausoleum

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 14 – Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) did not miss the opportunity to hold a Tahlil ceremony in the month of Ramadhan. His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) consented to attend the Tahlil Ceremony.

The ceremony was held for Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman, the late parents of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Also present was the Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman as the Chairman of the Board of Directors; the Second Minister of Finance at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim as the First Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong as the Second Vice-Chairman of the

Board of Directors, and the State Mufti, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned as member of the Committee of Governors.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) during pouring the aing asah-asahan (scented water) during the ceremony.

His Majesty's Bestowment of Personal Gift Ceremony



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah as the personal representative for His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam bestowing His Majesty's Personal Gift at the Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 28-29 – The bestowment of the personal gift of 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 to the less fortunate clearly reflects His Majesty's manifestation of leadership; by giving necessary attention to the less fortunate, to improve the well-being and welfare of the Brunei population.

The bestowment of His Majesty's Personal Gift was given to a selected group of people all over Brunei; in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1437 Hijrah / 2016 Masihi.

Within the Brunei-Muara District, a total of 6,247 recipients received His Majesty's Personal Gift; the recipients of His Majesty's Personal Gift comprise of those with special needs,

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His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah presenting His Majesty's Personal Gift to the recipients in the Brunei-Muara District.

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orphans and those who receives monthly welfare aid. The presentation ceremony was presented by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah held at the Istana Nurul Iman. The event commenced with the recital of Al-Fatihah led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal.

Meanwhile, at the Baitur Rahman Hall at Istana Nurul Iman, the presentation of His Majesty's Personal Gift was presented by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah. Here the recital of Al-Fatihah was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya bin Haji Awang Ibrahim.

The arrival of the royal family members at the Istana Nurul Iman was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs; and Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, the Prime Minister and Second Minister of Finance at the Prime Minister's Office.

Meanwhile, in Tutong District, the presentation of His Majesty's Personal Gift was presented by Her Royal Highness



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah presenting His Majesty's Personal Gift.



Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah. The presentation took place at the Main Hall of the Community Hall Complex. The arrival of Their Royal Highnesses was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister of Youth, Culture and Sports.

In the Belait District, the presentation of His Majesty's Personal Gift was presented by Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah. The event was held at the Pusat Ehsan Hall, and the arrival of Her Royal Highness' was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs and Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi, Minister of Health. The ceremony then began with the recital of *Doa Selamat* led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Setia Raja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Suhaili bin Haji Mohiddin.

On the next day, the presentation of His Majesty's Personal Grant continued again for the Brunei-Muara District, presented by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah

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binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah.

Meanwhile, in Temburong District the presentation of His Majesty's Personal Gift was presented by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the Community Hall Complex in Bangar Town. Welcoming the arrival of His Royal Highness was Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

His Majesty wishes that the welfare of the people of the country is being taken care of, especially the less fortunate, who should not be neglected; and that the recipients would spend wisely.



Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah presenting His Majesty's Personal Gift to recipients in the Belait District.

Development of Pusat Ehsan's rehabilitation complex

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 23 – Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam will open its Rehabilitation Centre by next year and in conjunction with its construction, the management have invited His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen to grace the Perletakan Batu Asas (Foundation Stone Laying) ceremony.

Accompanying His Royal Highness was Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah. Welcoming the arrival of His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness were Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohammad Alimin bin Haji Abdul Wahab, Senior Trustee of Pusat Ehsan; Awang Haji Ahmad bin Haji Abdul Rahman, the centre's Trustee for the Policy and Planning of Pusat Ehsan and Pengiran Datin Hajah Noraini binti Pengiran Dipa Negara Laila Diraja Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin, Executive Trustee of the centre.

Also in attendance were Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers, officers and the sponsors of the project.

Awang Haji Ahmad in his welcoming speech mentioned that the building of the complex acts as the First Phase in the Pusat Ehsan Rejuvenation Development Project, with the cost of BND 2 million dollars.

The complex will be equipped with therapy rooms, a pool and a garden as well as a gymnasium. In addition, the Qatar Embassy has supplied a number of modern therapy apparatus and has provided funding to secure new devices in the future.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah attending the Peletakan Batu Asas (Foundation Stone Laying) ceremony for the Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam Rehabilitation Complex.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen presenting an appreciation gift to one of the contributing parties.

KLHIF2016 returns

BERAKAS, June 2 – The Kuala Lumpur International Hijab Fair 2016 (KLHIF2016), an International Muslimah Fashion Trading showcase was held again for the second time in Brunei Darussalam and will commence for four days; starting from the 2nd until the 5th June, held at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Berakas.

KLHIF was first held in 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and it is now turning into its third year with five events after having a huge success from last year; profiting from 150 vendors.

The opening ceremony was launched by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Hajah Siti Radhiah, accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Wahidah Widatul Bolqiah binti Pengiran Maharaja Lela Sahibul Kahar Pengiran Anak Haji Mohd Yusof. Over 100 booths with local and international participated in the event; with famous celebrities selling their products as well.

Among some of the celebrities that participated was Ustaz Don Daniyal, Umie Aida, Yatt Hmazah, Heliza Helmi, Lisdawati, Betty Banfe and Mia Suria, bringing and promoting their Raya collection as well as their brands to be sold at the KLHIF2016 Celebrity Pavilion.

KLHIF is considered to be the best platform for Malaysian



YANG Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Hajah Siti Radhiah binti Pengiran Maharaja Lela Sahibul Kahar Pengiran Anak Haji Mohd. Yusof and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Wahidah Widatul Bolqiah binti Pengiran Maharaja Lela Sahibul Kahar Pengiran Anak Haji Mohd Yusof visiting one of the booths.

Fashion Entrepreneurs in entering the Brunei market. Majority of the vendors from last year managed to find their ways into the Bruneian market.

Apart from that, KLHIF2016 Brunei also offers over 100 free raya clothing set, sponsored by the vendors as the lucky draw prizes for the visitors.

Over 3 thousand participants join Fire Fighter Run 2016

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 1 – Over 3,000 participants joined the run that started and ended from Jalan Lapangan Terbang Lama, Fire and Rescue Department, Field and Track. Amongst the participants were nine non-locals; three from the Johor Fire Department, four from Sabah and two from the Sarawak Fire Department.

Attending as the Guest of Honour to launch the run was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs. The event was organised by the Heroes Event Management with the support from the Fire and Rescue Department; where they managed to collect a total of BND28,888 to fund the run.

There were seven categories open for the participants; Male and Female 10 Km, Male and Female 5 Km, Male and Female 3 Km and Family 3 Km. Winning first place was Sefli Ahar followed by Samsul Zamri in second place and Rustam Effendi Haji Minor Absah in third place. While in the Female 10 Km category, on the first place was Yvette JM Kortekaas, with Vanessa Lobb in second and Jenny Tan Feng Ling in third place.

Aside from the run, the event also organised a showcase



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs (second, left) presenting the prize to the winner of the 10 Km male category of Fire Fighters Run 2016, Sefli Ahar.

for awareness regarding the safety and causes of fire by the Investigation Division's Fire Safety Order 2016 and its enforcement by the Fire Prevention Division.

There were also a number of activities from the Fire Department, such as; demonstrating the use of the different fire extinguishers, shooting target, speed suit-up, fire jacket wearing challenge, fire fighter challenge test and flying fox.

Support local product Brunei Halal

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 4 – Bruneians and shop retailers are strongly encouraged to support local products under the brand of Brunei Halal, as it will facilitate the growth of local food industries as well as its trades and overall to diversify the economy.

The call for encouragement was made by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.)

Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy, Manpower and Industry during the official launching of the Brunei Halal Product at Airport Mall, Berakas.

Brunei is currently attracting foreign investors to concentrate on five main sectors; the halal sector, tourism, trade service, the creative, innovative and technology sector as well as the oil and gas industry.

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Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Minister of Energy, Manpower and Industry observing the handing over of local partnership contract.

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According to the Minister, the government is coming up with efforts and strategies for the country's food industry. This includes the government's initiative and investments on assessing the industry regardless of incomplete factors. The Minister further explained the importance of the halal sector, stating that it is logical as we have to make use of our status as a Muslim country that is respected and is always obedient in the halal certificate that is acknowledged globally and with a strict standard.

The event saw the launching of 15 Ghanim products is in the collaboration and partnership between with a number of local companies, as well as Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) which includes; Sabli Food Industries Ltd. Corp., Sahamada Corporation Ltd., Hana Soy & World (B) Ltd. Corp. and Superwater Marketing Ltd. Corp.

Meanwhile, the Direct Foreign Investors in the food industry plays a vital role in connecting a bulk chain system for Ghanim as well as for the local trading. Thus, the Minister suggests companies to continue working closely with all authorised parties and government agencies in fulfilling the mission; aside from being innovative and sustainable, it is so that they can produce a better product which can increase the quality of living for the Bruneian population and contribute to its economy. Ghanim International Food Corporation was



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin, Minister of Energy, Manpower and Industry viewing one of the Brunei Halal Product Showcase at the event.

founded in 2009 for the sake of developing the Brunei Halal brand in the global food market.

The Minister stressed that in order for Brunei Halal products to breach the international market like the United Kingdom (UK) is not easy, it requires gigantic effort in terms of the food's quality and in fulfilling the international strict standard.

According to the Minister, as a halal sector that adheres to the syariah law, Brunei Halal has the potential to provide working opportunities for the local youth. Thus, the Minister expressed hope that Brunei Halal will be one of the brand in boosting Brunei's name; and not only will they be in the UK market but also in the Middle East, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, in line with achieving the Brunei Vision 2035.

During the event, the Guest of Honour also presented the certificates of appreciation to Paisaku Misaka, Lead Executive Officer of Hana Soy & World (B) Ltd. Corp.; Awang Jasmadi bin Haji Jamudin, Sabli Food Industries General Manager; Awang Mohammad Nur Khalid bin Haji Lias, Sahamada Corporation Managing Director; and Pengiran Hajah Mariam binti Pangiran Bendahra Pengiran Muda Haji Hashim, Superwater Marketing Ltd. Corp. Director. Following the presentation was the Brunei Halal products showcase; among the products shown was cordial drinks, super soya, crackers, breaded chicken and water.

Minister of Religious Affairs receives courtesy visit

BERAKAS, June 18 – Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs received a courtesy visit from His Excellency Datu Ghulam Jelani bin Khanizaman, Malaysia High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

Also joining the meeting was Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Hajo Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud, the Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs; Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz bin Orang Kaya Maharaja Lela Haji Yusof, Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Religious Affairs; Awang Roslan bin Haji Taja'ah, Deputy Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Religious Affairs (Administration and Finance) and Awang Ariffin bin Dato Paduka Haji Abu Bakar, Head of Public Relations Department.

The aim of the visit was to deepen the relationship between the two countries and at the same time to exchange opinions and information on the issues that interests both parties. The



Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs (right) receiving a visit from His Excellency Datu Ghulam Jelani bin Khanizaman, Malaysia High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam (left).

meeting was held at the Dhiyafah Room of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Brunei Darussalam comitted to ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community's journey

LUANG PRABANG, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, June 5 – Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) stated that Brunei's continuous commitment to ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community's (ASCC) journey was for the welfare and to give benefits to the ASEAN community.

The Minister stated that, ASCC is responsible for various fields which ranges from people's daily lives encompassing health, youth, community development, culture and art, and worker's environment to handling disasters. The statement was made at the 15th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council Meeting held on the 4th of June at Luang Prabang.

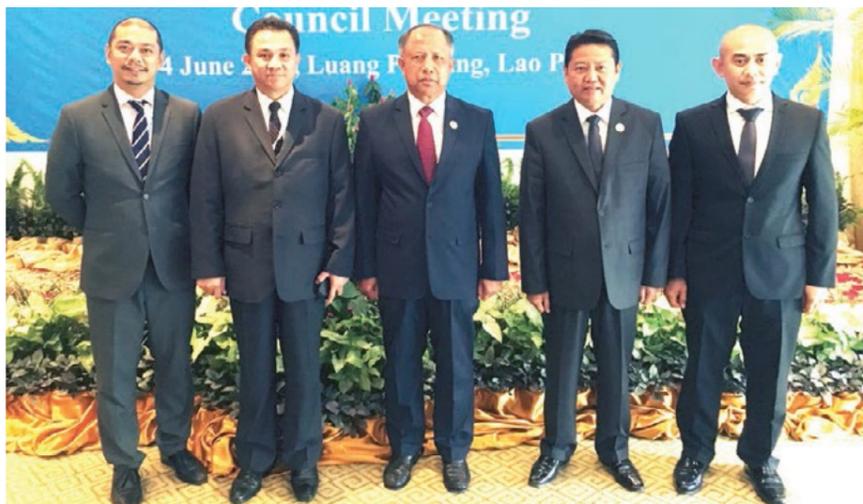
The Chairperson of the meeting was His Excellency Professor Dr. Bonsengkham Vongdara, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The theme for the meeting was 'Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community'.

The meeting was officiated by His Excellency Thonhloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. In his welcoming speech, His Excellency prompted the important parties to pave a path for the rapid progress of the ASEAN Community, especially for ASCC.

His Excellency stressed to the delegates and to the general parties that the programmes inclusiveness and the sector's activities concerning the target group cannot be neglected. It is because all the initiatives made was for the sake of the ASEAN community; suited with the intention of development and for the society to gain the opportunity to enjoy the product of progress and development.

His Excellency then stated, the establishment of the ASEAN Community at the end of the year 2015 and the next phase; to accomplish the ASEAN 2025 Community Vision towards a united, peaceful and stable ASEAN is a long journey that requires the involvement of the ASEAN countries as a collective whole.

According to His Excellency, the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 focuses on the progress of human resources towards a diversified economy and the persistence in where humanity has a



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports (middle) during the ASCC Council 15th Meeting at Luang Prabang, the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

high credibility to develop. The human resources capacity enhancement is important to be given a serious focus especially the involvement of youths who are part of the productive group.

Creative youths that are especially in the info-communication technology field will contribute a lot to the economic progress, creativity and others. Challenges that are to come will definitely play a part in preparing youths with positive traits and attitudes that will nurture a community that is independent and competitive.

The meeting also highlighted that the year 2016 is a significant year for the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 Vision as it marked the start for all three of ASEAN Community Blueprints: regarding political security, economic and socio-cultural following the official launching of the ASEAN Community in 2015.

In relation, the ministers voiced out their utmost support and the highest commitment to the ASCC's prioritised fields in 2016 and so on. The ministers also expressed hope that the important declarations that were recommended for approval by the countries' leader and government at the ASEAN 28th Summit Meeting, will bring in more benefits for the people to ensure their welfare further. The ministers also stressed that the implementation and the ASCC Blueprint development is very important for it to be supervised; to ensure its excellence in the sectoral agencies' 2016-2025 framework.

During the meeting, the ministers approved the Vientiane Declaration on Transition from Informal Employment

to Formal Employment towards Decent Work Promotion in ASEAN; ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response : ASEAN Responding to Disaster as One in the Region and Outside the Region and ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth.

All three recommendation was made in the hope that it will help to better the working condition, united response to disaster and care towards children and youth education service who generally cannot attend school or continue their schooling.

Following the declaration, the ministers took note on the Vientiane Declaration on Reinforcing Cultural Heritage in ASEAN completion process and ASEAN Joint Statement on Biodiversity for the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Chairman of ASEAN 2016 was Lao People's Democratic Republic. ASEAN 2016 carried the theme 'Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community' with emphasis on the other areas dealing with people-oriented and people-centered through the main eight branches.

Among the ministers attending the meeting were ministers from Cambodia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, as well as the ASEAN Secretary General. The 15th ASCC Meeting commenced with the 20th Right Committee Member Meeting for ASCC (SOCA), presenting the sectoral bodies development under ASCC for ASCC Council Meeting confirmation and information.

Sports Excellence Incentive Scheme encourages athletes

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 9 – A total of 26 athletes, five coaches and two assistant coaches as well as five National Sport Association received the Sports Excellence Incentives Scheme Awards, after obtaining medals at the 28th SEA Game at Singapore on the 5th until the 16th of June 2015.

Among those who received the awards were taekwondo, *sepak takraw*, wushu, *pencak silat* and netball athletes. Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports presented the awards to the recipients. The presentation was held at the Digadong Hall of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports building.

The scheme was introduced in order to facilitate incentives for outstanding athletes. It is also to encourage all athletes to reach a certain level of success in undergoing trainings with enthusiasm; to maintain or reach a higher prestige at the national and international sports, aside from giving monetary rewards to the athletes. It is not limited to just athletes, but also includes coaches due to their involvement in developing and progressing trainings.

Winner of the silver medal for the taekwondo, Nurulain binti Md. Jaafar said that obtaining the medal is a motivation for herself to work harder for the upcoming championship. She also wishes to have a chance to participate in the Olympics.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports (left) presenting Skim Penggalak Kecemerlangan Sukan (SPKS) to an athlete.

Also present were Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Affendy bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and Datin Paduka Dr. Hajah Norlila binti Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Brunei takes part in PISA 2018

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 17 – As a co-champion for the Education Strategy under Brunei Vision 2035, the Ministry of Education is driven to prepare the youth for employment and achievement in a world that is increasingly competitive and knowledge-based. The initiatives undertaken by the ministry are aimed at fulfilling the nation's goal in producing well-educated and highly-skilled people as measured by the highest international standards. Accordingly, the Ministry of Education has identified the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) as one of the tools to measure the performance of students in Brunei over time and compare them with their counterparts in other countries and economies. International benchmarks can show what is truly possible in education, and they can be a healthy driver for reform efforts.

PISA is an international survey conducted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that aims to explore the extent to which students at the end of compulsory education can apply their knowledge to real-life situations and be equipped for full participation in society. PISA takes place every three years since 2000, and to date, more than 70 economies worldwide have participated in the assessment. Previous studies have found that there is a strong correlation between high ranking in PISA and high economic performance of countries. In this way, researchers have concluded that PISA can be used as one indicator of education systems and how well the systems are preparing students for the global knowledge economy of the 21st century.

In anticipation of Brunei's first-time participation in PISA in 2018, the Ministry of Education has initiated some preliminary works as early as 2014 with the setup of a PISA Task Force at the ministry level, which oversees the coordination and implementation of PISA in Brunei. In line with these preparations, the Ministry of Education has implemented several strategic and highly-focused initiatives such as the Primary Education Initiatives, Secondary Education Initiatives, Literacy and Numeracy Standards, Brunei Teacher Standards and the 21st Century Teaching and Learning Designs.



Profesor Madya Dr. Haji Azman bin Haji Ahmad, Ministry of Education Permanent Secretary (higher education) (left) and Mister Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skill, and Special Adviser on Education Policy to the Secretary-General at the OECD in Paris (right) after signing the agreement during 41st PISA Governing Board Meeting.

The success of these initiatives depends highly on a concerted effort between various departments within the Ministry of Education, schools, teachers, parents and the community. The realisation of any educational goal requires a whole of nation approach where the costs of an activity or programme are to be equally shared and the desired outcomes are to benefit all.

Brunei Darussalam's participation in PISA 2018 was made official with the signing of the agreement with OECD, which took place at the OECD Headquarters in Paris during the 41st PISA Governing Board Meeting on the 14th June 2016. Signing for Brunei Darussalam was Dr Hj Azman bin Ahmad, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) at the Ministry of Education, whilst OECD was represented by Mr Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills, and Special Adviser on Education Policy to the Secretary-General at the OECD in Paris.