



Amendments on allowances for the welfare of citizens and residents

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15 - Towards implementing the use of technology in public and financial services, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to a joint venture project between the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE).

Meanwhile, to ensure that the well-being of civil servants is being cared for, Brunei Darussalam citizens under Daily Paid and Open Vote services will be absorbed into permanent service in phases, as long as they fulfill the requirements.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) during the Audience and Investiture Ceremony held in conjunction with His Majesty's 75th Birthday Celebration at Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana, Istana Nurul Iman.

For non-pensionable civil-service employees, His Majesty consented to a study by MoFE in collaboration with the Employees Trust Fund (TAP), to provide security to its members upon retirement.

The study is in its final stage and *insyaaAllah*, the government will announce its implementation in the near future.

For the welfare of citizens and residents in general, His Majesty has also consented to the Old Age and Disability Allowances Act (Amendment) Order 2021; and the Persons with Disabilities Order 2021, which will come into effect on October 1.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the Audience and Investiture Ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty's 75th Birthday Celebration Grand Royal Birthday Parade

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15 - This year's Grand Royal Birthday Parade to mark the 75th Birthday Celebration of 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 was carried out with a smaller number of guests and limited crowd, in adhering to the COVID-19 safety guidelines.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the event at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Majesty's sons: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and other members of the royal family.

The arrival of His Majesty was greeted by students who were waving flags along the main road leading towards the Grand Royal Birthday Parade.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspecting the Guard of Honour at the Grand Royal Birthday Parade.



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His Majesty receives audiences

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



His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security of the Republic of Singapore on July 15.



The Honourable Carlos Garcia Dominguez III, Financial Secretary Republic of the Philippines on July 15.

Their Royal Highnesses receive audience

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman received in audience at Qashar Al-Meezan:



His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madam Chew Poh Yim on July 14.

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 consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China; the people and Government of the People's Republic of China on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Founding of the Communist Party of China on July 1.
- His Excellency The Right Honourable Richard Wagner P.C., Administrator of the Government of Canada; The Right Honourable Justin P. J., Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; the government and people of Canada on the occasion of Canada Day on July 1.
- His Excellency Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States of America (US); the government and people of the US on the occasion of its 245th Independence Day on July 4.
- His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic; the government and people of the French Republic on the occasion of Bastille Day on July 14.
- His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, King of Thailand on the occasion of His Majesty's 69th birthday on July 28.

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With the amendment of the Old Age and Disability Allowances Act, allowances will only be given to citizens and permanent residents who do not have other citizenships.

His Majesty added that this amendment will improve employment search and introduce a monthly allowance of \$250.00 for recipients with disabilities, in accordance with the guidelines.

People with disabilities will also be eligible to receive disability allowance in addition to the old-age pension once they reach 60 years-old.

The Persons with Disabilities Order 2021 will include special laws to protect these groups from being abused and neglected.

In regards to the government's efforts to provide employment opportunities to locals, the Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC), through JobCentre Brunei (JCB) has introduced the Study and Professional Institution (SPIN) to equip the workforce with certain skills, aside from organising roadshow activities to help local job seekers.

His Majesty has often emphasised that local job seekers need to take advantage of the job opportunities offered by the public and private sectors.

His Majesty also touched on the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the world economy, which has resulted in social issues such as unemployment and political conflict. Despite the global shock in 2020, Brunei Darussalam is one of the three ASEAN member states which have shown positive economic growth, with an increase of 1.2 per cent. Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its World Economic Outlook last April, is expecting a 1.6 per cent growth this year, and over two per cent growth in the years to come.

Towards stimulating the country's innovation and socio-economy, His Majesty also consented to the formation of the Council for Research and Advancement in Technology and Science (CREATES) under the Ministry of Transport

and Infocommunications (MTIC), in replacement of the Brunei Research Council and National Science and Technology Committee as a measure to stimulate research and development in the field of science and technology in the country.

On regional and international levels, Brunei Darussalam will continue to enhance close ties with friendly countries to reap mutual benefits, especially in the fields of diplomacy and economy.

Stability within the ASEAN region, the Asia Pacific and even globally is very important to be maintained through negotiations, understanding and cooperation based on peace.

His Majesty's 75th Birthday Celebration (continued)

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Upon arrival at the royal dias, His Majesty received a Royal Salute accompanied by the national anthem sung by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) band, followed by a 21-gun salute.

His Majesty then inspected the Guard of Honour comprising 1,138 personnel from the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF), Royal Brunei Navy (RBN), Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF), RBPF, uniformed organisations and uniformed civilian organisations.

This was followed by a march-past led by Lieutenant Colonel Pengiran Haji Saiful Amirul Bakri bin Pengiran Haji Ramlee.

The highlight of the ceremony was the three cheers of 'Daulat Kebawah Duli Tuan Patik' by the participating teams, followed by a fly-past consisting of seven helicopters from RBAirF.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspecting the Guard of Honour at the Grand Royal Birthday Parade..



Also present were His Majesty's sons: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and other members of the royal family.



Students waving mini-flags along the main road leading towards the Grand Royal Birthday Parade as they await the arrival of His Majesty and other members of the royal family.

The Audience and Investiture Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15 – The Grand Royal Birthday Parade was followed by the Audience and Investiture Ceremony, which took place at Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana, Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the ceremony.

Also present were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's sons and daughters: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah

Sa'adatulk Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzillah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; and other members of the royal family.

Also in attendance were His Majesty's special guests: His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madam Chew Poh Yim; and The Honourable Carlos Garcia Dominguez the III, Financial Secretary of the Republic of Philippines.

The ceremony began with a *titah* (royal speech) by His Majesty followed by the conferment of state decorations to 16 recipients.

His Majesty first conferred The Most Exalted Order of Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang (D.P.K.T), First Class, which carries the title Dato Paduka Seri to His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring The Most Exalted Order of Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang (D.P.K.T), First Class, which carries the title Dato Paduka Seri to His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

His Royal Highness attended Basic Military Training at the Royal Military Academy of Sandhurst; and afterwards joined the military service as a pilot and completed seven months of Elementary Flying Training at the Royal Air Force Cranwell, United Kingdom (UK) on April 28, 2017. On May 20, His Majesty conferred the Substantive Major rank to His Royal Highness.

His Majesty then conferred The Most Gallant Order of Pahlawan Negara Brunei, First Class, (P.S.P.N.B), which carries the title Dato Seri Pahlawan to Brigadier General Awang Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF); First Admiral Awang Spry bin Haji Seruji @Haji Seruji, Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN); and Brigadier General Awang Haji Abdul Razak bin Haji Abd. Kadir, Joint Force Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) respectively.



His Majesty conferring The Most Gallant Order of Pahlawan Negara Brunei, First Class, (P.S.P.N.B) to Brigadier General Awang Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF); First Admiral Awang Spry bin Haji Seruji @Haji Seruji, Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN); and Brigadier General Awang Haji Abdul Razak bin Haji Abd Kadir, Joint Force Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

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The Audience and Investiture Ceremony (continued)

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The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei Second Class (D.S.S.U.B), which carries the title Dato Seri Setia was bestowed to Yang Arif Awang Haji Johar bin Haji Muhammad; while The Most Distinguished Order of Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Second Class (D.S.L.J), which carries the title of Dato Seri Laila Jasa was conferred to Professor Ooi Choon Jin, Gastroenterology, Gleneagles Hospital, Republic of Singapore.

Five recipients were conferred The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, Second Class (D.P.M.B) which carries the title Dato Paduka and Datin Paduka: Awang Haji Yusof bin Haji Mahmud, Auditor General; Awang Haji Sufian bin Haji Sabtu, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Security, Enforcement and Law) at the PMO; Awang Haji Asmawee bin Haji Muhammad, Director of Brunei Research; Awang Mohd. Zalani bin Haji

Ismail, Director of Narcotics Control Bureau; and Dayang Hajah Suhana binti Haji Sudin, Director of Anti-Corruption Bureau.

Meanwhile, five others were conferred The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei, Third Class (S.N.B): Ir. Awang Haji Amer Hishamuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Zakaria, Permanent Secretary (Infrastructure, Housing and Professional) at the Ministry of Development (MoD); Dayang Hajah Tutiaty binti Haji Abdul Wahab, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT); Dr. Dayang Nor Imtihan binti Haji Abdul Razak, Permanent Secretary (Planning, Land Use and Environment) at MoD; Dr. Dayang Hajah Haslinda binti Haji Mohd. Hassan, Endocrinology Consultant, at the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Dayang Hajah Masliana Yuliah binti Abdullah @ Liew Nyok Len, Acting Director of Agriculture and Agri-food.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei, Second Class (D.S.S.U.B) to Yang Arif Awang Haji Johar bin Haji Muhammad (left); and The Most Distinguished Order of Paduka Seri Laila Jasa, Second Class (D.S.L.J) to Professor Ooi Choon Jin, Gastroenterology, Gleneagles Hospital, Republic of Singapore (right).



His Majesty conferring The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, Second Class (D.P.M.B) Awang Haji Yusof bin Haji Mahmud, Auditor General; Awang Haji Sufian bin Haji Sabtu, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Security, Enforcement and Law) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); and Awang Haji Asmawee bin Haji Muhammad, Director of Brunei Research (left); as well as to Awang Mohd. Zalani bin Haji Ismail, Director of Narcotics Control Bureau; and Dayang Hajah Suhana binti Haji Sudin, Director of Anti-Corruption Bureau (right).



His Majesty conferring The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei, Third Class (S.N.B) to Ir. Awang Haji Amer Hishamuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Zakaria, Permanent Secretary (Infrastructure, Housing and Professional) at the Ministry of Development (MoD); Dayang Hajah Tutiaty binti Haji Abdul Wahab, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT); and Dr. Dayang Nor Imtihan binti Haji Abdul Razak, Permanent Secretary (Planning, Land Use and Environment) at MoD (left); as well as to Dr. Dayang Hajah Haslinda binti Haji Mohd. Hassan, Endocrinology Consultant at the Ministry of Health (MoH); and Dayang Hajah Masliana Yuliah binti Abdullah, Acting Director of Agriculture and Agri-food (right).

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The Audience and Investiture Ceremony (continued)

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam gracing the Audience and Investiture Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty's 75th Birthday Celebration (above and left).



His Majesty's sons, daughters and other members of the royal family attending the Audience and Investiture Ceremony.



Doa Selamat read by the State Mufti (left), and among the guests present at the Audience and Investiture Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty's 75th Birthday Celebration (centre and right).

Get-Together Ceremony Tutong District



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkhiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkhiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkhiah at the Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* ceremony in the Tutong District.

TUTONG, July 25 - This year, Tutong District was the first district to welcome His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a series of Get-Together Ceremonies conducted in each district.

A total of 3,147 students lined up along the streets from the Tutong District's Officer's official residence to the Tutong Civic Centre Complex, waving miniature national flags alongside the beating of *hadrah* as they greet the arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang

Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Majesty's sons: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and other members of the royal family.

The highlight of the ceremony was a colourful performance titled '*Raja Terbilang Negara Cemerlang*' involving a total of 275 performers comprising students, members of the Mukim and Village Consultative Council, volunteers

as well as employees in the public and private sectors. The performance was divided into three main segments, each ending with three cheers of '*Daulat Kebawah Duli Tuan Patik*'.

After the performance, His Majesty proceeded to the stage platform to meet the performers along with other members of the royal family; and consented to cut the birthday cake. This was followed by the traditional get-together session with the residents of Tutong District.

The ceremony concluded with a Luncheon at the Tutong District Civic Centre Complex Hall.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen in a group photo at the Get-Together Ceremony.

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Get-Together Ceremony (continued)

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam greeting those present at the Get-Together Ceremony.



Students waving miniature national flags to welcome the arrival of His Majesty and other members of the royal family (left); and some of the highlights from the performance titled 'Raja Terbilang Negara Cemerlang' at the Get-Together Ceremony (below).



Temburong District

TEMBURONG, July 27 - Temburong district was the second district to welcome His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a Get-Together Ceremony.

Also in attendance were His Majesty's sons: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and other members of royal family.

Hundreds of students lined up along the streets leading towards

the Civic Centre Complex Field, waving miniature national flags alongside the beating of *hadrah* to greet the arrival of His Majesty and other members of the royal family.

The ceremony was enlivened with a colourful performance titled '*Raja Kesayangan Rakyat*'. The performance involved 375 students from Rataie Primary School and Sultan Hassan Bangar Secondary School; and was followed by

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Get-Together Ceremony (continued)

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three cheers of '*Daulat Kebawah Duli Tuan Patik*' by students of Temburong Arabic Preparatory School, led by Haikal Fawwaz bin Zunaidi.

royal family proceeded to the stage platform for a group photo; and mingled with the performers, committee members, *penghulus* and village heads, government and non-government organisations (NGOs).

After the performance, His Majesty and other members of the

His Majesty then proceeded to the Temburong District Civil Centre for a Luncheon.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Get-Together Ceremony with citizens and residents of Temburong District. Also in attendance were His Majesty's sons: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and other members of the royal family.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah mingling with the performers at the Get-Together Ceremony in Temburong District.



His Majesty signing a coffee table book at PMO's booth.



APEC economies strengthen cooperation in addressing challenges

Brunei, therefore, values close cooperation with APEC economies through the sharing of best practices and involvement.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 16 - 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 stressed the importance of APEC to continue close cooperation in addressing current challenges.

In a *titah* (royal speech) at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Informal Leaders' Retreat - which was held virtually via video conference from Baitul Mesyuarah, Istana Nurul Iman - His Majesty touched on the three main points which need to be explored by APEC member countries. The first was strengthening international efforts in securing equitable and affordable access to vaccines as global public goods, by jointly producing COVID-19 vaccines and toolkits for the Asia-Pacific region.

Secondly, APEC economies should review their approach to economic development to achieve sustainable development. This includes efforts in empowering people; enhancing the productivity of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs); building sustainable infrastructure and leveraging on innovative technologies, which are key elements in helping APEC economies adapt to the new normal.

These elements are recognised as critical enablers in Brunei Darussalam's journey towards a dynamic and sustainable economy in 2035, as stated in the country's Economic Blueprint.

The final point was increasing international trade for global economic recovery, where APEC needs to ensure that global trade governance will rebuild confidence in the multilateral trading system and support economies to rebuild better.

In this matter, Brunei Darussalam appreciates APEC's strong support for the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) works, and looks forward to successful outcomes at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference later this year.

Moving towards world recovery, His Majesty said that Brunei remains committed to working with APEC economies in realising a better future for all, as envisioned in the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040.

Earlier, The Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, as Chairman of APEC 2021 said in her welcoming address that the meeting is an opportunity to renew commitments to engage with one another and build collaborative responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a joint statement, the APEC economic leaders also emphasised the importance of ensuring equitable and affordable access to vaccinations; strengthening supply chains under a rule-based trading system and international order; as well as fostering closer cooperation in facilitating the movement of essential goods.



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 during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Informal Leaders' Retreat, held virtually via video conference at Baitul Mesyuarah, Istana Nurul Iman.

Amidst the pandemic, APEC has pivoted its efforts towards economic recovery and tabled initiatives that would foster economic recovery throughout the year. Some of the initiatives include the commitment to facilitate essential goods, including equitable access to COVID-19 vaccinations; and the exchange of information on essential travel of people across borders, which would be useful towards accelerating economic recovery in the Asia-Pacific region.

The formal APEC Economic Leaders Meeting will be held in November, this year.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the APEC Informal Leaders' Retreat, held virtually via video conference.

Consistently practise the 'Divine Vaccine'

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 20 - In facing the ongoing challenges brought by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rapid global spread of new variants, 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 reminded the people to remain vigilant and to continue adhering to health protocols.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha 1442 Hijrah / 2021 Masihi (which was broadcasted nationwide) that although Brunei has not had any local COVID-19 cases for over a year, it is not yet time to be complacent as we should be consistent in practising the 'Divine Vaccine' as a form of protection.

From the eve of Aidiladha until the last hours of *tasyrik*, we should be grateful to be able to glorify all mosques, *suraus*, prayer halls, homes and even the whole country with *takbir* and *tahmid*, praising Allah the Almighty.

It is imperative to uphold the *takbir* and *tahmid* as well as *zikir* in the current situation of COVID-19 - so that we become patient and resilient in facing all situations and trials.

His Majesty further believed that with any problem or misfortune that comes, we will always go back to Allah through prayer and *zikir*, asking for relief - and



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) in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidiladha 1442 Hijrah / 2021 Masihi at Istana Nurul Iman.

that is why Brunei is blessed, making it a safe country. Religious practices, according to His Majesty, are very important, although there are those who do not share this view.

Embracing the 'Divine Vaccine' is a religious obligation that should be fulfilled with conviction and patience.

Conviction and patience are the traits of the prophets and the holy ones, and this is why Prophet Ibrahim was willing to carry out the commands of Allah the Almighty to sacrifice his son, Prophet Ismail. This is the ultimate example of having faith and patience while enduring trials.

His Majesty joins Aidiladha prayer



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah during the Sunat Aidiladha prayer.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 21 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined citizens and residents in performing the *Sunat* Aidiladha prayer

at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah in Kampung Kiarong.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were His Majesty's sons and brother: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and

Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

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His Majesty joins Aidiladha prayer (continued)

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The mass *Sunat* Aidiladha prayer was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar. Meanwhile, the *khutbah* (sermon) was delivered by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustapa bin Haji Murad.

After the prayer, His Majesty attended the *Korban* (sacrificial) Ceremony for His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak

Haji Mohamed Alam; as well as members of the royal family.

At the ceremony, His Majesty performed the *Korban* of a goat, while the rest of the *Korban* for Their Majesties and the royal family were performed by PDS Abattoir Sdn. Bhd.; and Syarikat Norfaizal bin Haji Zainuddin dan Anak-Anak.

This year, 176 cows and 14 goats were sacrificed. The meat were distributed to 15,357 recipients comprising the poor and those who are in need from across the country.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam slaughtering a goat at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.



His Majesty and other members of the royal family upon arrival at the compound of Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah for the *Korban* (sacrificial) Ceremony (right); and among those present at the *Sunat* Aidiladha prayer (above).



Military exercise strengthens RBAF's preparedness



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) at the Fighting In Built Up Areas (FIBUA) (left and above).



Briefing on the Urban Operation Exercise by Lieutenant Colonel Haji Alimin bin Haji Subohi, Commanding Officer of Third Battalion, Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 29 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to observe the Hikmat Bersatu VI / 2021 Exercise carried out by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).



Some of the exercises conducted in a range of complex environments at the FIBUA at Penanjong Garrison.

The exercise focuses on tackling non-traditional security threats, such as terrorists and organised crime. The exercise began on July 26 until 31, involving several areas of Brunei Darussalam's rivers and waters, inland areas, several residential and commercial areas, as well as major roads in the four districts.

It aims to evaluate military response and capabilities in conducting tactical and operational duties aside from focusing on security, stabilisation and counter-insurgency (COIN).

Also in attendance was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Upon arrival at Bolkiah Garrison, His Majesty was introduced to the heads of the exercise's organising team. At the Joint Operations Centre's Briefing Room, His Majesty was briefed on the exercise's operation by Brigadier General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Abdul Razak bin Haji Abd. Kadir, RBAF Joint Force Commander.

His Majesty then toured the Joint Operations Centre before boarding a Blackhawk S70i to the Fighting In Built Up Areas (FIBUA) at Penanjong Garrison.



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Military exercise strengthens RBAF's preparedness (continued)

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At the FIBUA Village, His Majesty was briefed on the Urban Operation Exercise by Lieutenant Colonel Haji Alimin bin Haji Subohi, Commanding Officer of Third Battalion, Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF).

His Majesty later witnessed a Joint Operation Exercise conducted by RBLF; RBAF's Special Force Regiment, with support from the 2nd Royal Gurkha Rifles of British Forces Brunei; and the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF), which demonstrated their ability to conduct combined operations in a range of complex environments, with a focus on military contributions in addressing non-traditional security threats.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam witnessing a Maritime Interdiction Operation.

The exercise also provided comprehensive training to RBAF personnel through realistic contemporary scenarios.

From Penanjong Garrison, His Majesty then proceeded to the Brunei waters to witness a Maritime Interdiction Operation on board KDB Daruttaqwa.

Thereafter, His Majesty witnessed a Hostage Rescue Operation on a hijacked ship. The rescue team included His Majesty's son, His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

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His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen joining a Hostage Rescue Operation on a hijacked ship at a Maritime Interdiction Operation (above, left, right and below).



Military exercise strengthens RBAF's preparedness (continued)

From page 16

His Majesty then proceeded to the Royal Brunei Naval Base for a Luncheon Ceremony with senior officials at the Ministry of Defence (MinDef) and RBAF at the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) Officers' Mess.

During the ceremony, His Majesty received a *pesambah*, followed by the signing of the Royal Patchment and a group photo session.

The Hikmat Bersatu VI Exercise is hoped to further strengthen RBAF's preparedness to uphold and carry out the responsibility of defending the country's peace, prosperity and sovereignty; with the aim to test and validate RBAF's actions on operational and tactical levels through a more detailed implementation plan in response to various scenarios.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; and His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen in a group photo (right); and His Majesty signing a commemorative parchment (left).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; and His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen in a group photo at the Royal Brunei Naval Base.

His Majesty leads recreational horse riding event

JERUDONG, July 31 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined a recreational horse riding event in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 75th Birthday Celebration, which was organised for the first time by The Royal Brunei Polo Association.

Upon arrival, His Majesty as the Royal Patron of the Royal Brunei Polo Association was greeted by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Basith bin Pengiran Datu Penghulu Pengiran Haji Apong, Chairman of the association.

His Majesty was later introduced to the veteran polo players of the Royal Brunei Polo Association, who also joined the horse riding session.

Also present were His Majesty's son, brother and daughters: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, President of the Royal Brunei Polo Association; and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah.

His Majesty then led the horse riding session, which began from Jerudong Park Polo and Riding Club to the Jerudong Beach; passing along the beach's coast and the Jerudong Wet Market; all the way to the Empire Brunei, where a Luncheon Ceremony was held.



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 with members of the royal family in a horse ride along Jerudong beach's coast.

At the Jerudong Wet Market, a crowd gathered along the road to cheer on His Majesty and the members of the royal family, as well as other participants of the event.

Soon after their arrival at the Empire Brunei, His Majesty and members of the royal family consented to join a group photo together with the horse riding team at the West Wing Island of the building, before joining the Luncheon Ceremony.

Also in attendance at the Luncheon were His Majesty's sons: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and other members of the royal family.

At the Luncheon Ceremony, His Majesty consented to cut a birthday cake, and afterwards joined another group photo at the courtyard of the Empire Brunei.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam leading the recreational horse riding event in conjunction with His Majesty's 75th Birthday Celebration.



His Majesty leads recreational horse riding event (continued)

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam cutting a birthday cake at the Luncheon Ceremony. Also in attendance were His Majesty's sons: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam mingling with the veteran polo players of the Royal Brunei Polo Association (right).



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (left); Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah (centre); and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzillah Lubabul Bolkiah (right) joining the horse riding event.

Doubling efforts to support Brunei Vision 2035



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) at the 40th Brunei Darussalam Scouts Day, which was held at the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association (PPNBD) Headquarters in Gadong. Accompanying His Royal Highness at the event was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 3 - As a mature and highly-regarded association, the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association (PPNBD) should continue to redouble its efforts in supporting the national development agenda, in realising the Brunei Vision 2035.

Hence, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) urged the association to be wise in penetrating priority and high-impact areas, by always emphasising initiatives related to technology-based skill development and entrepreneurship empowerment.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince as the Chief Scouts of Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in a *sabda* (royal speech) at the 40th Brunei Darussalam Scouts Day, which was held at the PPNBD Headquarters in Gadong. His Royal Highness hoped that the commissioners and scout team leaders will always embrace the life-long learning aspects among themselves.

"A leader must always be sensitive to the current situation, to ensure that it is always relevant and accepted by the society. What is also important is His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's advice at the 4th National Jamboree Official Opening Ceremony in December 2013, which emphasised that scouts need to preserve good identities to become examples to younger generations," His Royal Highness highlighted.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah delivering a *sabda* (royal speech).

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Their Royal Highnesses in a group photo with members of the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association (PPNBD).

Doubling efforts to support Brunei Vision 2035 (continued)

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His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at PMO presenting medals to scouts leaders at the 40th Brunei Darussalam Scouts Day.

Earlier, His Royal Highness congratulated PPNBD for remaining relevant after 88 years of uniting various walks of life and ages in contributing resources under the auspices.

His Royal Highness expressed great confidence that the country's scout movement will continue to play a vital role in contributing to the development of a comprehensive human capital, particularly the youth, by inculcating high quality leadership with strong moral values.

"Formal education is as important for the younger generation as activities that can help mould and develop their character.

"Thus, involvement in the scout movement - which is considered as an informal education movement - is one of the best platforms towards the development of intended holistic capacity.

"The attitude of being 'always ready' in the context of being prepared and staying relevant - which is applied in a scout - is also what encourages continuous devotion, as evident through their involvement as frontliners in tackling the Coronavirus pandemic in the country," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness further believed that the inclination towards volunteer activities shown by the scouts can be translated into three characteristic traits of superiority in a community and living in a nation. One of it is a high level of focus and commitment, in which they are willing to give more time and energy consistently towards equally ensuring the continuity of the roles and responsibilities entrusted on them.

The second characteristic is the better understanding of the needs of each person being assisted,



His Royal Highness mingling with junior scout members. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

which is the main key in the effective implementation of actions to fully achieve the desired results - where the scouts display of altruistic behaviour and teamwork spirit are highly commendable.

Lastly, agility and adaptability - where these traits are important in a pandemic situation that demands social boundaries, as well as the need to meet the needs of everyone, including the maintenance of their emotional and psychological well-being.

Accompanying His Royal Highness at the event was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness presented the scout leader medals to 102 recipients; the Meritorious Award for outstanding service to 20 scout members; the Excellence Service Medals for high commitment and involvement in scout associations to 15 scouts; the Good Scouts Commemorative Medals to 23 scouts; the Old Scouts Commemorative Medals for their continuous involvement and service to the association to seven scout leaders; and the Chief Scouts Medal of Honour to another 37 recipients.

Twenty-seven national commissioners and 39 Assistant District Scout District Commissioners were also presented with Warrant Awards, marking their responsibilities in shouldering their divisions.

Also receiving their certificates of appreciations were principals and headmasters of schools with active scout groups. Meanwhile 12 Rover Scouts were also awarded with Baden Powell Certificates.

Before leaving, His Royal Highness also consented to sign a commemorative parchment and joined a group photo session.

DPMM FC records victory at BSL 2021

JERUDONG, July 25 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman consented to witness the Brunei Super League (BSL) 2021 match between DPMM FC and Wijaya FC.

At the match, DPMM FC won their fifth victory in BSL after defeating Wijaya FC 8-NIL.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Muntaqim.

In the first half, DPMM FC managed to score seven goals; five goals were netted by Andrei Varankou, the other two goals were scored by Hakeme Yazid; and team captain, Charlie Clough.

In the second half, Varankou managed



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the Brunei Super League 2021.

to add another goal to the scores - 18; defeated BSRC FC by 13-0 on July 11; summing up DPMM FC's total scores and won 15-0 against Rimba FC on July 4. to eight goals.

Prior to the match, DPPMC FC All matches took place at the Jerudong Park Mini Stadium. won 2-0 over Indera SC on July



Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim witnessing the match.



DPMM FC and Wijaya FC players during the match.

Bestowal of Manteri Hulubalang titles to six recipients

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 12 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to bestow Manteri Hulubalang titles to six recipients in two separate days, July 10 and earlier today at the *surau* of Istana Nurul Iman.

On July 10, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah attended the bestowal of the title to three recipients as a personal representative of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

At the event, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik was preceded by two Hulubalangs: the Hulubalang Diraja

carrying the *Pemuras* and *Karga*; and the Hulubalang Asgar carrying the *Kelasak* and *Kampilan*. Accompanying His Royal Highness was His Royal Highness' *Perhiasan Empat*.

The ceremony began with the bestowal of the Manteri Hulubalang title to Sergeant 3940 Awang Rinair Rupa'an bin Awang Tajudin, who became the Panglima Diraja.

The ceremony was followed by the bestowal of the title to Sergeant 3495 Awang Haji Sahmbari bin Haji Lias, who became the Pewira Diraja; and to Sergeant 3920 Awang Mohamad Arfandey bin Abu Bakar, who became the Hulubalang Diraja.

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Bestowal of Manteri Hulubalang titles to six recipients (continued)

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Earlier today, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen attended the ceremony as a personal representative of His Majesty to bestow three Manteri Hulubalang titles at the same venue.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was also preceded by two Hulubalangs; and accompanied by His Royal Highness' *Perhiasan Empat*.

The ceremony began with the bestowal of the Manteri Hulubalang title to Sergeant 17535 Awang Abdul Rashid bin Metarshad, who became Panglima Asgar.

This was followed by the bestowal of the title to Corporal 19523 Awang Mohamad Badarudin bin Haji Md. Sofian, who became *Pewira Asgar*; and to Corporal 19653 Awang Abdul Malik bin Hidup, who became Hulubalang Asgar.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah (left); and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (right) attending the bestowal of Manteri Hulubalang titles to the recipients as personal representatives of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the *surau* of Istana Nurul Iman on July 10 and 12 respectively.



Begawan Mudim Awang Haji Suhaili bin Haji Kalong lightly touching the *Gangsa Sireh* on the shoulders as well as the top of Sergeant 3940 Awang Rinair Rupa'an's head (left); Begawan Mudim Awang Haji Ahmad Kasra bin Haji Ibrahim lightly touching the *Gangsa Sireh* on the shoulders as well as the top of Sergeant 3495 Haji Sahmbari's head (centre); and Begawan Mudim Awang Abd. Latif bin Haji Saman lightly touching the *Gangsa Sireh* on the shoulders as well as the top of Sergeant 3920 Awang Mohamad Arfandey's head (right) at the bestowal ceremony on July 10.



Begawan Mudim Awang Haji Suhaili lightly touching the *Gangsa Sireh* on the shoulders as well as the top of Sergeant 17535 Awang Abdul Rashid's head (left); Begawan Mudim Awang Haji Ahmad Kasra bin Haji Ibrahim lightly touching the *Gangsa Sireh* on the shoulders as well as the top of Corporal 19523 Awang Mohamad Badarudin's head (centre); and Begawan Mudim Awang Haji Tamin bin Haji Puting lightly touching the *Gangsa Sireh* on the shoulders as well as the top of Corporal 19653 Awang Abdul Malik's head (right) during the bestowal ceremony on July 12.

Charity Polo Championship raises \$132,162.00 for Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam

JERUDONG, July 1 - The Charity Polo Championship 2021, which was organised by the Brunei Polo Team in cooperation with the Royal Brunei Polo Association and Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam, managed to collect a total amount of \$132,162.00.

Held at Istana Nurul Izzah, proceeds from the Charity Polo Championship 2021 was handed over by His Majesty's son and daughter: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, to Pengiran Datin Hajjah Noraini binti Pengiran Dipa Negara Laila Diraja Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin, Executive Trustee of Pusat Ehsan.

The tournament, which was held for the 5th time on June 6, among others was aimed at raising funds for Pusat Ehsan, a non-government and non-profit charitable organisation committed to providing quality education, rehabilitation and training programmes for individuals with special needs.



His Majesty's son and daughter: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah handing over a mock cheque to the Executive Trustee of Pusat Ehsan.

Provide fair opportunities without favouritism



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the National Flag Handover Ceremony to the Brunei Darussalam Contingent to the 32nd Olympics Games in Tokyo, Japan 2020.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 17 - National sports associations were reminded to provide fair opportunities to all athletes without favouritism to participate in domestic championships at the national level as well as regional and international championships.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC), in a *sabda* (royal speech), noted that some sports associations are practising favouritism in assessing and giving opportunity to their athletes, where such attitude should not be adopted as it could affect the national sports development.

The *sabda* was delivered at the National Flag Handover Ceremony to the Brunei Darussalam Contingent to the 32nd Olympics Games in Tokyo, Japan 2020. His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah further urged national sports associations to be more proactive in giving and opening up opportunity for their athletes.

"Like in every Olympic Games, 'Universality Places' are only given to athletics and swimming with the requirements of athletes participating in tournaments recognised by the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) and International Swimming Federation (FINA).

"Therefore, opportunity should be given to capable athletes competing in tournaments recognised by IAAF and FINA, so that our nation can have a choice in assessing athletes to be selected for international competitions," said His Royal Highness at the ceremony, which took place at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas.

His Royal Highness further urged National Sports Associations to further improve their sports development programmes to produce female athletes to be featured, not only in the Olympic Games but in all regional and international Olympic Committee in the Olympic Charter 1.2.8 that states to encourage and promote women in sport at all levels and structures with a view to implementing the principle of equality.

His Royal Highness hopes that the athletes who will represent the country at the 32nd Olympic Games will show the best discipline by presenting their best achievements, and strive to break their national or personal records while complying to the regulations and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) set up by International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the organiser in curbing the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Athletes should stay away from using prohibited substances while abiding to the Act and Regulations of Anti-Doping enforced by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)," His Royal Highness added.

His Royal Highness then handed over the national flag to Dayang Umi Kalthum binti Haji Abdul Karim, Chef de Mission of the Brunei Darussalam Contingent to the 32nd Olympic Games.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah handing over the national flag to the Chef de Mission of the Brunei Darussalam Contingent.

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Provide fair opportunities without favouritism (continued)

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The Brunei Darussalam contingent comprises two athletes and five officers, including Chef de Mission, liaison officer, secretariat officer and coach.

Brunei Darussalam will participate in two sports events, namely athletics and swimming. Mohd. Firdaus Ar-Rasyid bin Haji Mohd. Idris will be representing the country in the men's 200-metre athletic event and Muhammad Isa bin Awang Haji Ahmad, will be taking part in the 100-metre breaststroke swimming event.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah in a group photo with the two athletes from the Brunei Darussalam contingent: Muhammad Isa bin Awang Haji Ahmad, who will be taking part in the 100-metre breaststroke swimming (left); and Mohd. Firdaus Ar-Rasyid bin Haji Mohd. Idris, who will be taking part in the men's 200-metre athletic event (right).

Premiere screening of 'Prince 'Azim - Son of the Arts'

JERUDONG, July 29 - With the consent of 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,

the nationwide screening of a documentary chronicling the life of Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim titled 'Prince 'Azim - Son of the Arts' began with a premiere screening at the Empire Times Cineplex.

The 90-minute documentary film was executively produced by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's son and daughters: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah;



The premiere screening of the 90-minute documentary film titled 'Prince 'Azim - Son of the Arts' was attended by Cabinet Ministers, senior government officials, members of the public and welfare bodies.

and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah.

public and welfare bodies.

Haji 'Abdul Azim's family and friends.

With tickets priced at \$25.00, the first show received encouraging response from Cabinet Ministers, senior government officials, members of the

Directed by Sumardi Hedus of Relentless Entertainment, the documentary film includes video footages and inside interview with Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince

The next screening of the documentary film will take place July 31 and August 1 at the Empire, Tutong and KB Times

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Premiere screening of 'Prince 'Azim - Son of the Arts' (continued)



Cabinet Ministers and their family members at the premiere screening of the 90-minute documentary film titled 'Prince 'Azim - Son of the Arts'.

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Cineplex cinemas, with an entrance fee of \$15.00 per person. Further screenings are also scheduled to be held at the Jerudong International School (JIS) Arts Centre on August 7 and 8.

Majority of the ticket proceeds will be donated to charity bodies, namely Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam;

the Centre for Children with Special Needs (KACA); SMARTER Brunei; and the Children's Cancer Foundation (YASKA).

Born on July 29, 1982, Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji Abdul 'Azim was the second eldest son of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, who passed away at the age of 38 on Saturday, 7 Rabiulawal 1442 Hijrah, corresponding to October 24, 2020 at 10:08 am.

Brunei - Philippines sign ADTA

JERUDONG, July 16 - Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of the Philippines have signed an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income at the Empire Brunei.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy. Signing on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines was The Honourable Carlos G. Dominguez III, Secretary of Finance of the Republic of the Philippines.

In a statement, the Minister noted that the signing will facilitate the Government of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines in exchanging information on taxation matters, in accordance with the internationally agreed standards, which Brunei Darussalam is committed to implement.

The agreement is a significant step forward in enhancing economic, trade and investment cooperation, especially through the private sectors of both countries as they will benefit from the reduction of the tax liability from each jurisdiction.

To date, Brunei Darussalam has signed a total of 20 Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements (ADTAs): namely with the United Kingdom (UK); the Republic of Indonesia; the People's Republic of China; the Republic of Singapore; the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; the Sultanate of Oman; the Kingdom of Bahrain; Japan; the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Malaysia; the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, while signing on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines was The Honourable Secretary of Finance of the Republic of the Philippines.

the People's Republic of China (HKSAR); the Kingdom of Kuwait; the Republic of Tajikistan; the State of Qatar; United Arab Emirates (UAE); the Republic of Korea (RoK); the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg; the Kingdom of Cambodia; and the Republic of the Philippines.

Brunei Darussalam has also signed 11 Exchange of Information Agreements with Australia; Canada; France; Denmark; Faroes; Finland; Greenland; Iceland; Norway; Sweden; and India.

Brunei Darussalam has also signed the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (MAC), which allows the country to exchange information on tax matters with its signatory countries.