



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

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Royal 63rd birthday anniversary *titah*: Mandatory retirement at 60

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, July 14 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam announced that the Government of His Majesty will introduce a new additional retirement scheme called the Supplemental Contribution Pension (SCP) that will be enforced from January 1, 2010. This new scheme is aimed as an addition to the current Employee Provident Fund (TAP).

His Majesty also took the opportunity to announce that starting January 1, 2010, the mandatory retirement age limit for citizens and permanent residents taking part in the TAP and SCP schemes will be increased to 60 years.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made the *titah* in conjunction with His Majesty's 63rd birthday anniversary.

His Majesty said, like the TAP scheme, SCP will cover all citizens and permanent residents who are working in the public and

private sector and it will also be expanded to the informal sector.

However, His Majesty said that, in order not to burden the employers, especially companies, the calculation of the contribution will be fixed to an appropriate amount.

His Majesty said, for TAP participants who are unable to make adequate contributions before they reach retirement, they will also enjoy the benefits of the SCP because His Majesty has consented that the government provide additional assistance to this group in the form of a catch-up contribution or backdated contribution.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* also announced that Brunei Darussalam will have sovereignty on the continental shelf and 200 nautical miles of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) as being agreed by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Abdullah



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers *titah* (royal speech) at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Haji Ahmad Badawi during the signing of Exchange of Letter on the demarcation of maritime boundaries with Malaysia early this year.

His Majesty said with this, Brunei will enjoy the benefits from the exploration of hydrocarbon and other maritime resources.

His Majesty inaugurate the harvesting of Paddy Laila

PENKALAN BATU, August 3 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inaugurated a harvesting ceremony of the Paddy 'Laila'.

It took place at the Agriculture Development Site of the Wasan Padi Plantation Project in the Brunei-Muara District.

With His Majesty were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The monarch joined in the first harvesting of Laila, using the traditional manual method and the modern method using the combine harvester.

Took part in the paddy harvesting along with His Majesty were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik

and His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Mateen.

Paddy Laila was a new paddy variety formulated from several varieties of padi and was chosen after some eight years of experimentation.

His Majesty viewed an exhibition of food made from Laila Rice products, exhibitions by the Wasan Vocational School and the Philrice of the Philippines, and the modern procedures of rice threshing, drying and milling using the thresher, flatbed dryer and portable rice milling machines.

The harvesting of paddy Laila comes about three months after His Majesty launched a large-scale paddy cultivation in a determined effort to increase the country's rice production. The initiative was put in motion in April this year as the country



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

strives to achieve self-sufficiency in this staple food. This huge scale endeavour involves expansion of paddy farms from the present thirteen hundred hectares to nearly five thousand three hundred hectares by next year in order to achieve 20 percent self-sufficiency, and to nearly ten thousand hectares five years later in 2015, toward achieving 60 per cent self-sufficiency in rice production that year.



6 ASEAN-Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit



8 His Majesty-----



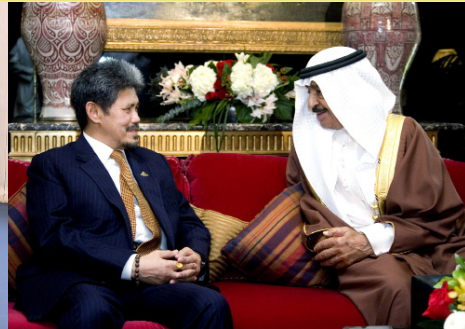
10 Their Majesties officiate BRIDEX 2009



11 Special Meeting on influenza A H1N1



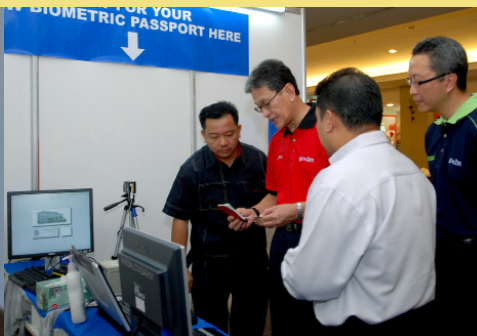
12 Her Royal Highness joins blood donation campaign



13 His Royal Highness meets with the Prime Minister of Bahrain



15 Princess Hajah Masna stresses Halal Compliance



17 E-government services main initiator to the public



18 BIACC receives ISO 9001:2000 recognition



JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2009 | VOLUME 24 ISSUE 6/7/8

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

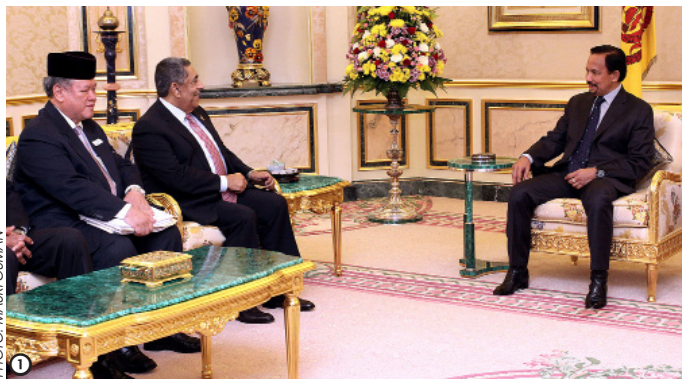


PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

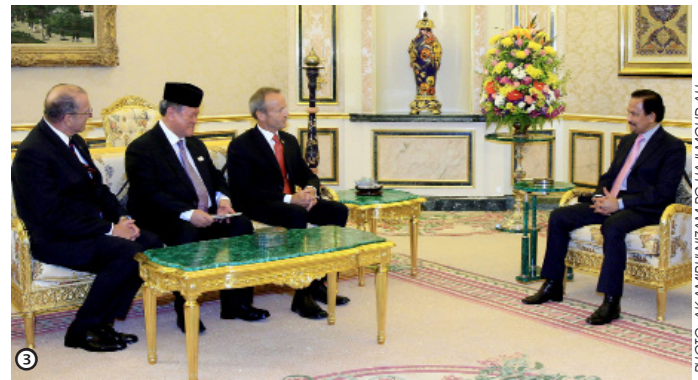


PHOTO: AK AMIRULNZAM PG-HAJI MOHD.ALI



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



PHOTO: AK AMIRULNZAM PG-HAJI MOHD.ALI



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZI HAJI DURAMAN

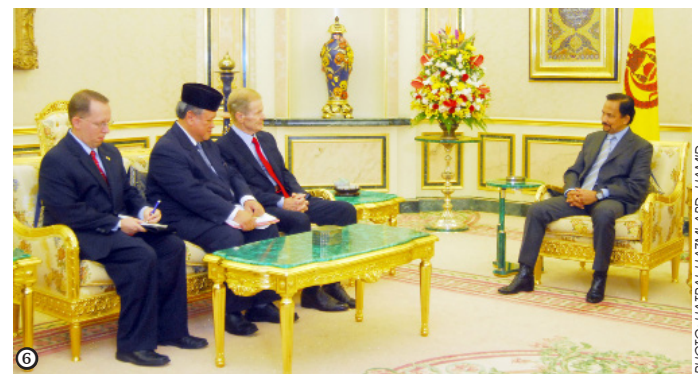


PHOTO: HATRAN HAZMI ABD. HAMID



PHOTO: HATRAN HAZMI ABD. HAMID

- 1 The Minister of National Economy, Vice Chairman of the Financial Affairs and Energy Resources Council of the Sultanate of Oman, His Excellency Ahmed bin Abdul Nabi Mack on July 7.
- 2 The President of Asia Development Bank (ADB), His Excellency Haruhiko Kuroda on July 22.
- 3 The Minister of International Trade of Canada, The Honourable Stockwell Day on July 25.
- 4 The High Commissioner of Britain to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency John Donald William Savillie on July 25.
- 5 The Chairman Chiefs of Staf Joint Committee, Republic's Islamic Pakistan Army Forces, His Excellency General Tariq Majid on August 10. His Excellency was in the country to attend the conference and the 2nd Brunei International Defence Exchange BRIDEX held on August 12 to 15.
- 6 The Senator of the United States of America, The Honourable Bill Nelson on August 17.
- 7 The out-going ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Hashimoto Itsuo on August 17.

First women appoints as Attorney General

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 4 – Yang Arif Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Hayati binti Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohd. Salleh, High Court Judge, Supreme Court was appointed as Attorney General.

The appointment of Yang Arif took effect on August 4.

With the appointment, Yang Arif was the first women to hold the post of Attorney General.

HM CONDOLENCE

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent condolence to the President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono due to bomb blast in Jakarta which cost a lot of live on July 18.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present Letters of Credentials to two newly-appointed envoys at the Istana Nurul Iman:



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

They were:

- 1 His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Yusof bin Haji Abdul Hamid, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the United States of America on August 20.
- 2 His Excellency Pengiran Kasmirhan bin Pengiran Tahir, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Lao People's Democratic Republic on August 20.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to received diplomatic credentials from new foreign Heads of Missions at the Istana Nurul Iman:



PHOTO: ABDUL KADIR MD. TAHIR



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGAH

They were:

- 1 The newly-appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Philippines to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Alexander Badong Yano on August 6.
- 2 The newly-appointed High Commissioner of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Robert Dominic Russell Fenn on August 6.
- 3 The non-resident of the High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Christian Anthony Vhiruri on August 6.
- 4 The non-resident of Ambassador and the head of delegation of commissioner of Europe to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Julian Wilson on August 6.
- 5 His Excellency Sergio De Souza Fontes Arruda, the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Brazil to Brunei Darussalam on August 20.
- 6 His Excellency Jorg Alois Reding, the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of Switzerland to Brunei Darussalam on August 20.
- 7 His Excellency Naveen Prakash Jung Shah, the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal to Brunei Darussalam on August 20.

First local appoints as Lord President



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

The new Lord President, Yang Amat Arif Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Kifrawi.

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, August 4 – Yang Amat Arif Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Kifrawi bin Dato Paduka Haji Kifli was appointed as the new Lord President.

The appointment of Yang Amat Arif took effect on August 4, 2009 to replaced Yang Amat Arif Dato Seri Paduka Mohammed Saied after completed his appointment.

Present at the ceremony was His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Also Present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

With the appointment, Yang Amat Arif was the first Bruneian to hold the post of the Lord President.

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

- ❶ Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from Madam Fabiola Moreno de Alboran, the spouse of the out-going High Commissioner of Britain to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency John Donald William Saville July 25.
- ❷ The spouse of the Senator of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam, Mrs Grace Nelson on August 17.
- ❸ The spouse of the ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam, Mrs Estela Aragon-Yano on August 17.
- ❹ The spouse of the High Commissioner of Britain to Brunei Darussalam, Mrs Julia Fenn on August 17.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received audience at the Istana Nurul Iman for:

PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN

- ❶ The Minister of International Defence and Security of the United Kingdom, The Honourable Baroness Ann Taylor on June 3.
- ❷ The Minister of National Economy, Vice Chairman of the Financial Affairs and Energy Resources Council of the Sultanate of Oman, His Excellency Ahmed bin Abdul Nabi Macki on July 6.
- ❸ The out-going High Commissioner of Britain to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency John Donald William Saville on July 21.
- ❹ The out-going Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Hashimoto Itsuo on July 28.
- ❺ The Minister of Education at the Minister of Defence II of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Dr. Ng Eng Hen on August 11. His Excellency was in the country to attend the Brunei International Defence Exchange (BRIDEX) 2009.
- ❻ The Ambassador of Republic of Philippines to Brunei Darussalam His Excellency Alexander B. Yano on August 13.
- ❼ The High Commissioner of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Robert Dominic Russell Fenn on August 13.





Group photo of His Majesty with the ASEAN countries leaders and President of Republic of Korea.

ASEAN-Korea relationship benefits for the East Asia region's solidarity

PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

JEJU, KOREA, June 1 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed his excitement on the progress and the improvement of ASEAN and Korea relationship not only for the benefits of both sides but to ensure the peace, stability and the solidarity of the East Asia region.

His Majesty in his *titah* said these is the important achievement in the

relationship of two dialog partners of East Asia.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made the *titah* in the first session of the ASEAN and Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit held at International Convention Centre, Jeju.

The summit was chaired by the President of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Lee Myung-bak as the Joint Chairman of the summit.

In the regional security, His Majesty expressed his concern on the situation in Korea and welcomed the meeting on the process of six party meeting. His Majesty supported the Korea on the efforts to ensure the peaceful in the region.

The summit was held to commemorate the 20 years of the establishment of the ASEAN-Korea Dialogue with themed 'Partnership for Real, Friendship for Good'.

Bilateral meetings to improve ties

JEJU, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, June 1 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held separate bilateral meeting with two foreign leaders.

First, His Majesty held meeting with the President of Republic of Korea, His Excellency Lee Myung-bak at the Hyatt Hotel. The meeting was held in

conjunction with ASEAN and Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit.

Later, His Majesty held meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic Socialist of Vietnam, His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung at Lotte Hotel, Jeju.

During both meeting, His Majesty and the respective leaders exchange ideas to improved bilateral ties and cooperation.



His Majesty and the President of Republic of Korea during the meeting at the Hyatt Hotel in Jeju Island, Korea.

Brunei-Vietnam improved bilateral ties



Both leaders discuss on effort to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation.

JEJU, KOREA, June 1 – The efforts to improved bilateral relationship and cooperation in various fields and international and regional affairs between Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam were among the matters discussed in the bilateral meeting between His Majesty The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of the Republic Socialist of Vietnam, His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung.

The meeting between the two leaders was held at the Lotte Hotel,

Jeju in conjunction with the ASEAN and Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of the Republic Socialist of Vietnam also expressed their satisfied on the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam established diplomatic ties in February 29, 1992 and the close relationship between the two countries can be seen through exchange visit between the two leaders of the countries.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam?

JEJU, REPUBLIK KOREA, June 2 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in the *titah* (royal speech) on the initiative of Heart of Borneo implement by Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei to protect tropical forest towards strengthening regional cooperation in the fields of environment especially in keeping the regional eco-system.

In this regards, His Majesty welcomed Korea to use the Kuala Belalong Field Study Centre as a place for environment research.

His Majesty made the *titah* at the second session of ASEAN and Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit held at International Convention Centre, Jeju.

His Majesty also welcomed the exchange programme of education and cultural among youths, academic, cultural expertise and media.

In this regard, His majesty noted that ASEAN-Korea youths exchange programme that have been held for eleven years and propose such programme will be held for educators.

His Majesty also appreciated the government of Korea for the establishment of ASEAN-Korea Centre and hoped that the centre will hold the program that can improve expertise and knowledge especially in the fields of Information Technology Communication (ICT) and Bio-Technology.

HM signs Joint Statement

JEJU, KOREA, June 2 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with other ASEAN leaders and Korea signed joint statement at the ASEAN and Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit in Jeju.

The joint statement among others explained on the ASEAN-Korea relationship including the achievement and procedures



His Majesty during the signing of the joint-statement.

taken to strengthen both relationships.

Apart from the signing of joint statement, the ASEAN-Korea Investment Agreement was also signed by the Minister of Economic. Brunei Darussalam was represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng.

On the same day, His Majesty also held visit to Spirited Garden which located 20 kilometres from Jeju. The garden is a Bonsai Art Park which aged more than 150 years.

His Majesty's birthday celebration: Do not waste and burden the people

BERAKAS, July 13 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam reminded all parties not to use his birthday celebration as a tool to attract donations or to accumulate donations from the public and big companies.

His Majesty said that such initiatives taken by the government seem to burden the people. Is the budget not enough or is it not joyful enough, His Majesty asked.

"I don't encourage wastage or to burden the people. What is more important, the celebration runs smoothly," said His Majesty.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* said that even though celebration for his 63rd birthday anniversary has been postponed, His Majesty believed the celebratory atmosphere and spirit is still in the air.

His Majesty said that this is because we are facing Influenza A (H1N1) pandameic, a scary global catastrophe where many social activities have been affected.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made the *titah* at the Special Meeting of the National Disaster Management Centre held at the Fire and Rescue Department.

In an education field, the monarch asked why the Islamic Religious Knowledge (IRK) is not among the compulsory core subjects in the new Nation Education System (SPN21) along with Malay, English, Mathematics and

Science. It is surprising to see IRK along with Music and Drama and not with the four compulsory core subjects.

Why Malay subject is part of the compulsory core? Maybe, it is because it is mentioned in the Constitution as the official language. What is lacking in Islamic religion? It is also in the Constitution, His Majesty asked.

The monarch said, it is more than just a compulsory core as it is the religion from Allah that is obligatory for all Muslims, which otherwise would become a sin for them.

In the field of administration and management, the Islamic Religious Council has outlined a guideline to send officers and staff overseas. There are instances whereby some ministries and department are not aware of their staff welfare when sending them overseas.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* at the Special Meeting of the National Disaster Management Centre.

An officer travels alone to attend meetings, seminar and so on. This matter only happens to low ranked officers while directors and above as well as ministers, deputy ministers will be accompanied by many officers and staff and possibly with the diplomatic staff for consultations and discussions.

His Majesty believed that it is not a mature idea for the officer to travel alone and possibly travels without the knowledge of the diplomatic staff. His Majesty said that it is an idea that is selfish, an idea that does not show concern towards the subordinates.

His Majesty added, another issue is when the travelling officer is a woman or when male and female officers who have no legitimate relationship travel together. This is worst in the context of religion, which could jeopardise the family.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, The Right Honourable James Gordon Brown held bilateral meeting at the No.10 Downing Street.



His Majesty and The Right Honourable signs the Exchange of Notes.

PHOTOS: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

Royalty attends Israk and Mikraj celebration

KIARONG, July 19 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Israk and Mikraj 1430 Hijrah held at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

In the event, His Majesty consented to present the prizes to the winner of 'Anugerah Sekolah Ujama Tauladan Tahun 1430 Hijrah'. The award was the tenth organised by Islamic Education Department.

The award comprising four categories which are Administration Category; Academic Category;

Activity Category; and the Best Overall Category.

Administration Category was won by Pengiran Anak Puteri Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam Religious School. The school received cash prize \$3,000 contribute by Brunei Shell Marketing Company, a trophy and certificate.

The Activity Category was won by Penanjong Religious School. The school received cash prize \$3,000, a trophy and certificate.

And the Academic Category was won by Tumpuan Telisai Religious School. The school received cash prize \$3,000, a trophy and certificate.

However, there was no winner in the Best Overall Category for this year. This year's theme is 'Kedewasaan Bernegara Dengan Zikir'.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

One of the winners receives prize from His Majesty.

Demand on *halal* products market increases

BERAKAS, July 30 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam officiated the International *Halal* Products Expo 2009 (IHPE) held at the International Convention Centre.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Brunei Darussalam organised the first expo on August 7 to 11, 2006. This year is the fourth Brunei Darussalam organised the expo. The expo was participated by some 135 companies from eight countries, including 88 local companies. More than 80 entrepreneurs from Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Syria, China, Japan and Yaman also participated in the expo.

This year's expo emphasised today's *halal* products is already a demand, comprising not only food, but also non-food which fulfill the needs of the Muslim in the 21st century. This include the production, medical, beauty materials, Islamic Finance, tourism, the supply of raw materials, plant and *halal* food procession.

The expo was aimed to provide awareness to the public on the nation's commitment of production and recognition *halal* food; to promote Brunei *Halal* brandname; to give



His Majesty try-out one of the products at one of IHPE booths.

awareness to the potential entrepreneurs on the opportunities in production of *halal* food; and to provide opportunities for the companies abroad to invest in Brunei Darussalam.

The expo was jointly organised by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Religious Affairs.

PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

Brunei - Malaysia promote economy cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 5 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam in the *titah* said that, now, the time is very appropriate for Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia as friend, to promote economic cooperation, especially in the areas of trade, investment, energy and tourism.

The cooperation of both countries in that fields, said His Majesty, can be make more easier with some bilateral mechanisms, especially the Annual Consultation since 1997.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said these in his *titah* (royal speech) during the official banquet to celebrates the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable

Dato' Seri Mohd. Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak, in conjunction with the 13th Annual Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

The consultation was important to evaluate and improved cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

His Majesty said that, officers from both countries also have a wid opportunity to cooperate more closer at the Sabah Development Corridor, Sarawak Renew Energy Corridor and Iskandar Malaysia.

His Majesty also welcomed the participant of investors from Malaysia in infrastructure projects in Brunei Darussalam such as National Housing Scheme Project which was now operates by one of Malaysian companies.

Touched on the non double tax agreement which has been agreed, His Majesty said that it would create more condusive atmosphere to

encourage investment and trade between the two countries.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also touched on the economy and financial crisis that faced by Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. His Majesty said that the crisis will push both countries to cooperate in facing the problems.

According to His Maajesty, it will become the platform to quicken the economy integration, as recorded in the Asean Charter which has been signed by the two countries.

His Majesty further said that at the time Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia faced the economic crisis, both countries also shocked by the Influenza A H1N1 epidemic. The epidemic effected both countries' tourism sector.

Meanwhile, in the return speech, The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Mohd. Najib said that Malaysia and Brunei

Darussalam now should focus efforts to strengthen and expand cooperation.

The Right Honourable added that, it is also important for both countries to identify strategic areas that can be further advanced by both countries.

Among the areas identified were the increase of investment in hydro power field, tourism and also development such as areas in Sabah and Sarawak, Iskandar and Malaysia.

The Right Honourable hoped the cooperation between the two countries will continue to develop comprising education, the Islamic development, *halal haram* and also the relationship between the residents.

The Right Honourable believed under the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the bilateral relationship between the countries will be continuously to enhance and can be a modal between the two neighbourhood countries.



PHOTO: RAMLI TENGGAH

His Majesty meets the Prime Minister of Malaysia

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, August 5 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Mohd. Najib held an eye-to eye meeting at the Ratna Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

At the meeting, both leaders renewed commitment to strengthen the friendship and close cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and The Right Honourable discussed bilateral issue including the ways to improved the cooperation between the two countries including regional and international issues and the need to overcome the challenges as global economy crisis and the infectious pandemic.



PHOTO: AK AMIRULNIZAM PG-HAJI MOHD. ALI



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Majesty meets the King of Jordan

JERUDONG, August 11 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held an eye-to eye meeting with His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein, the King of Jordan.

The meeting was held at the Empress Suite Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Senior Minister at the Prime Ministers Office and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

King Abdullah II arrived in the country on August 11 for a two-day visit and attended the opening ceremony of the 2nd Brunei International Defence Exhibition (BRIDEX) which was held on August 12.

The King of Jordan's delegates comprising of 38 officers including media representatives.

His Majesty and the Prime Minister of Malaysia at a Morning walk



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 6 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Mohd. Najib conducted a 'Morning Walk' at the Tasek Lama Recreation Park.

The 'Morning Walk' was held in conjunction with the official visit of the Prime Minister of Malaysia to attend the 13th Annual Consultation held in the country.

Also joined the walked was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Right Honourable also planted Malawaring Tree or *Cyrtostachys Lakka* to commemorate the Morning Walk.

Located in the midst of the capital city of Brunei Darussalam, Bandar Seri Begawan, the Tasek Lama Recreation Park is frequently visited by the public for exercises and climbing especially during the weekend and after office hours.

Their Majesties officiate BRIDEX 2009

JERUDONG, August 12 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Force (RBAF) and His Majesty King Abdullah II, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan officiated the opening of the Second Brunei Darussalam International Defence Exhibition and Conference (BRIDEX) 2009.

At the BRIDEX Centre Dome premise, Their Majesties were introduced to the invited international delegates.

Their Majesties consented to officiate BRIDEX 2009 marked with the scanning of Their Majesties' palm on the Command Control Console, activating the visual displays on the Command Control Panel.

Their Majesties then consented to view the aircraft manoeuvre demonstration by the Republic of Singapore Airforce followed by air displays from the Royal Malaysian Airforce.

Later, Their Majesties proceeded to the Viewing Gallery to have a closer look at the sea and land-base insurgency scenario simulations segment.

After the demonstration, Their Majesties consented to visit the West Wing Exhibition Hall. Here, Their Majesties had the opportunity to visit booths of exhibiting companies from countries



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

like Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Korea, Norway, Pakistan, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

More citizens receive land grant and houses

MUKIM PENGKALAN BATU, August 18 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented land grants under the temporary occupation license (TOL) and keys under the STKRJ Kampung Lumapas 'A'.

The ceremony was held at the Mukim Pengkalan Batu Community Hall, Kampong Parit.

Out of 108 recipients, 70 received land grants and 38 received. Soon after, His Majesty made a stop at the houses of land grant recipients at Kampong Masin, Sinarubai and Kampong Kilanas.

His Majesty also visited houses of recipients at Kampong Lumapas 'A' and 'B'.



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHWUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

His Majesty presents the land grants to one of the recipients.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to:

- The President of the Republic of Italy, His Excellency Giorgio Napolitano in conjunction with National Day of Italy on June 2.
- His Majesty King Carl Gustaf XVI, the King of Sweden in conjunction with Sweden's National Day on June 6.
- The President of the Republic of Portugal, His Excellency Anibal Cavaco Silva in conjunction with the republic's National Day on June 10.
- The President of the Republic of Philippines, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in conjunction with the republic's 'Independence Day' on June 12.
- The President of Russia, His Excellency Dmitry Medvedev and the Prime Minister, His Excellency Vladimir Putin in conjunction with the republic's 'National Day' on June 12.
- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the

Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Gordon Brown in conjunction with birthday anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II on June 14.

- The President of the Republic of Croatia, His Excellency Stjepan Mesic in conjunction with the republic's National Day on June 25.
- The President of the Republic of Djibouti, His Excellency Ismail Omar Guelleh in conjunction with the Independence Day of the republic on June 27.
- Her Excellency The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, the Governor General of Canada in conjunction with the 142nd Canada Day on July 1.
- The President of the Republic of United States of America, His Excellency Barack Hussein Obama in conjunction with the United States of America's 233rd Independence Day on July 4.
- His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of Republic of France

in conjunction with France's 523rd National Day on July 14.

- His Excellency Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on his reelection as President of the Republic of Indonesia on July 15.
- His Excellency Mohamed Hosny Mubarak, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt in conjunction with the republic's National Day on July 23.
- His Excellency Mohamed Nasheed, the President of the Republic of Maldives in conjunction with the republic's Independent Day on July 26.
- His Excellency Alan Garcia Pirez, the President of the Republic of Peru in conjunction with the republic's Independent Day on July 28.
- His Majesty Mohamed VI Ben Hassan, the King of Maghribi in conjunction with the country's National Days dan ulangtahun menaiki tahta on July 30.

Special meeting on Influenza AH1N1

BERAKAS, June 30 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as the Chairman of the National Disaster Management Council said that the role of the public is important in shouldering the responsibilities together in preventing the virus Influenza AH1N1 from spreading more seriously in the country.

The called was made by His Royal Highness at the special meeting of the National Disaster Council held at the Fire and Rescue Department.

His Royal Highness said that the success of all efforts made by His Majesty's Government will not be achievable without the involvement and cooperation from every level of the community.

Amongst the effort that is appropriate to be taken is the stressing of self-isolation for those infected and

its closest contacts besides practicing responsible attitude and unselfishness to curb the more critical spread of the infection.

His Royal Highness further stated that there is also a need to always be ready to face the worst case scenario considering that there are no stronger preventive measures such as vaccine that have been proven effective.

His Royal Highness in his *sabda* also urged all the government and private sectors to be always ready to face the situation that is threatening their respective working scope should the possibility of its officers and staff get infected with the diseases. Every agency should prepare a business continuity plan that could secure the implementation of respective activities.

His Royal Highness added that the research and screening procedures are also needed to ensure that the



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness called for involvement and cooperation from public for the success of the efforts made by the government.

public are not doubtful towards the treatment and medical steps that need to be taken as well as the optimal use of ICT services such as the use of SMS, internet and media.

Such steps, said His Royal Highness, can ensure that citizens and residents will be more aware and ready to practice preventive measures in maintaining personal hygiene, lessen the risk of exposure from infections and obeying the quarantine orders to those involved.

His Royal Highness presents prizes to the winner of Golf Charity Tournament

JERUDONG, June 7 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office presented the prizes to the winner of the 8th Golf Charity Tournament 2009 held at the

Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club.

The overall champion in 'Gross' category was won by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Mohammad Saifullah. In the 'Nett' category was won by Awang Mirusin bin Hashim. Dr. Alif Abdullah meanwhile won the first place in 'Nett' A category.

In 'Nett' B category was won by Awang Shanom bin Haji Ahmad. In 'Nett' C, the winner was Awang Rabaie bin Haji Narawi. Dato Paduka Haji Samid meanwhile won in the 'Senior Gross' category. In the 'Senior Nett' category was won by Pengiran Haji Kowloon.

Dayang Norhayati Masri won the 'Women Gross' category. In

the 'Women Nett' category was won by Debbie Soo. In the 'Junior Nett' category was won by Awang Ahmad Fauzi bin Haji Said.

The three-day tournament was participated by 272 golfers.

At the event, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah received a cheque amounted \$30,000.00 from the Managing Director of Boustead Sdn. Bhd., Dato Paduka Lim Beng Thai.

His Royal Highness then presented the cheque to the Chief Executive of Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Orphans Fund, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali Hashim bin Haji Daud.



The overall champion in 'Gross' category receives his trophy from His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness officiates 'The 2nd Annual Asia-Pacific e-Govt Forum 2009'



His Royal Highness at the launching of 'The 2nd Annual Asia Pacific e-Gov Forum 2009' held at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

JERUDONG, August 17 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office officiated 'The 2nd Annual Asia Pacific e-Gov Forum 2009' held at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Soon after the launching, His Royal Highness toured the exhibition from the government's department and the related private sector which involves with e-Governance.

The three days forum gathered the e-Governance's expertise, e-Governance 'stakeholders', policy and executive making process in ICT sector.

The forum, the first to be held in Brunei Darussalam was jointly handled by Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Communication and organised by 'Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation' with aimed to share experienced and knowledge related with e-Governance.

'e-Governance' is significant issue which passed the technical process and providing information.

His Royal Highness officiates Kampung Ayer Culture and Tourism Gallery

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 19 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office the Kampung Ayer Culture and Tourism Gallery.

The gallery was located at Kampung Saba Tengah in Kampung Ayer.

At the ceremony, His Royal highness witnessed the Video Clip on the gallery which has an area of 565 square inch and built in August 2007 and completed in June this year.

Various aspect of Kampung Ayer based on the history starting from 10th century until now were exhibited. Among them were foreign and local written passage resources, discovery archeology, culture contemporary, arts, maps and photographs.



His Royal Highness tours an exhibition at the Kampung Ayer Culture and Tourism Gallery.

Darren Beck wins Brunei Open Golf Tournament



Darren Beck receives a trophy from His Royal Highness.

JERUDONG, August 5 - Darren Beck from Australia emerged as the winner in 5th Brunei Open Golf Tournament.

Present to hand over the prize was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

Darren Beck received a cash prize of USD47,550.

The second place was won by Boonchu Ruangkit from Thailand. He received a cash prize of USD32,500. Meanwhile the third place was won by Gaganjeet Bhullar from India.

Her Royal Highness joins blood donation campaign

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 13 – Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah joined the members of cadet platoon, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) army cadet in blood donation campaign held at the Blood Donation Centre Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital.

The campaign was held coincided with World Blood Donation Day which is celebrated every June 14.

The theme for this year was '100 Peratus Pendermaan Darah dan Komponen Darah Secara Sukarela Tanpa Imbalan atau Ganjaran'.



Her Royal Highness joins other UBD army cadets donating blood in conjunction with the World Blood Donation Day.

Brunei-Russia discuss bilateral relationship

RUSSIA, July 1 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade was in Russia for an official visit.

His Royal Highness started his visit with a Wreath Laying Ceremony at Alexander Garden (Kremlin Wall). Here, His Royal Highness laid a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers.

The Kremlin Wall was a memorial monument dedicated to the soldiers of Soviet Union who were killed during the Patriotic Wars in 1941 to 1945.

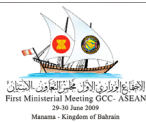
Soon after, His Royal Highness met the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Sergey Lavrov at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mansion and discussed preparations for the official visit of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the Russia Federation at the end of this year, as well as a wide range to bilateral, regional and international affairs..

The meeting concluded with a working lunch hosted by His Excellency Foreign Minister Lavrov.

The official relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Russia was signed on October 1, 1991 with the signing of diplomatic relationship between both countries held at UN.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman at the bilateral meeting.



His Royal Highness meets with the Prime Minister of Bahrain

PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

MANAMA, BAHRAIN, June 29 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade held the bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Bahrain, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa.

The meeting was held at one of the hotels in Manama.

Brunei Darussalam and Bahrain established diplomatic ties on September 24, 1988 and had signed several joint agreement. Among the cooperation signed were Air Services Agreement; Memorandum of Understanding in Investment and Finance sector.



Group photo of the ASEAN and GCC Foreign Ministers during the dinner hosted by Prime Minister of Bahrain.

His Royal Highness attends dinner

MANAMA BAHRAIN, June 29 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah joined ASEAN and GCC Foreign Ministers at a reception and a cultural exhibition before attending an official dinner hosted by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Meanwhile Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah also attended a dinner hosted by Shaikha Wesal binti Mohamed Al-Khalifa, the wife of the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

ASEAN-GCC cooperation gives benefits to Brunei

MANAMA, BAHRAIN, June 30 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in his *sabda* said that the cooperation of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and ASEAN give a lot of benefits to Brunei Darussalam.

His Royal Highness made the *sabda* at the first meeting of the ASEAN and GCC Foreign Ministers Meeting.

The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, His Excellency Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, His Excellency Kasit Piromya.

The ministers also exchanged ideas on the regional development and

the possibility to held the Free Trade Agreement.

At the meeting, the ministers also endorsed the ASEAN-GCC Joint Vision and witnessed the Memorandum of Understanding among the ASEAN-GCC's secretariats. The ministers also agreed for the ASEAN-GCC Foreign Ministers Meeting 2010 to be held in the ASEAN country apart from agreed to hold the meeting biannually and hosts by the GCC and ASEAN.

GCC comprising of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates formed on February 4, 1981 and the first summit was held on May 25, 1981 in Abu Dhabi.



ASEAN Foreign Minister Meeting, Dialogue Partner Summit and ARF

PHOTOS: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

PHUKET, THAILAND, July 18 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the 42nd ASEAN Foreign Minister Meeting, Dialogue Partners Summit and the 16th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held on July 19 to 23.

Accompanying His Royal Highness was Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.



Group photo of Foreign Ministers at the 42nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in the Retreat Session at Dusit Thani Laguna, Phuket.

Discuss effort to enhance cooperation

PHUKET, THAILAND, July 20 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade held bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Abhisit Vejjajiva at Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket.

At the meeting, His Royal Highness

and His Excellency exchanged ideas on the bilateral relationship between the two countries. Both leaders also discussed regional and international affairs.

His Royal Highness also attended the Opening Ceremony of the 42nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the same day.

HRH chaired attends AMM/PMC related meetings

PHUKET, THAILAND, July 22 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade co-chaired the ASEAN-China Dialogue Summit with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China, His Excellency Yang Jiechi.

At the summit, the minister assessed the dialogue's relationship and discussed the matters to improve cooperation as well as exchanged views on regional and international affairs.

His Royal Highness also touched on the ASEAN-China's development cooperation and expressed his appreciation on the People's Republic of China for the close cooperation between both countries during Brunei Darussalam became the state coordinator.

His Royal Highness also attended the East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers Informal Consultations together with other counterparts from ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand at the same.

In the meeting, His Royal Highness also welcomed EAS effort in ensuring

a balance between the members without looking at the position of the country.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, also made the *sabda* (royal speech) at the ASEAN +3 Ministerial Meeting together with ASEAN Foreign Ministers, Republic of China, Japan and Republic of Korea.

His Royal Highness also conveyed appreciation on the progress achieved in the ASEAN + 3 cooperation and expressed the importance of the ASEAN + 3 process, especially in promoting regional trade and also give support on the efforts to established the East Asia Trade Area.

Also attended by His Royal Highness was the ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting with European Union (EU) and joined other Foreign Ministers of ASEAN signing the Instrument of Extension/Accession to the Treaty and Cooperation in Southeast Asia with the United States (US) which represented by US Secretary of State, Her Excellency Hillary Clinton.

Meanwhile on July 21, His Royal Highness attended 2nd ASEAN's



His Royal Highness and Prime Minister of Thailand at the bilateral meeting.



The ASEAN-China Dialogue jointly-chair by His Royal Highness and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of People's Republic of China.

Political Security Community Meeting. Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

At the meeting, His Royal Highness stressed that ASEAN should give priority to resolve the problems in this region such as A H1N1 epidemic, smuggling of drug and economic crisis.

All the above events were held at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket.

HRH distributes dates for upcoming Ramadan

RIMBA, August 3 – A call for a wise planning and arrangement of a strategy was made by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik to ensure the distribution of dates could run smoothly and the gifts reach the recipients at the designated time.

His Royal Highness made the *Sabda* at a ceremony to officially launched the distribution of dates which are personal gifts from His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in conjunction with the forthcoming fasting month of Ramadhan 1430 hijrah.

The ceremony took place at the Chancellor Hall of University Brunei Darussalam.

His Royal Highness in the *sabda*, stressed that Ramadan is the month when the doors of blessings and virtues are widely open and all religious obligations performed with full devotion and sincerity will be rewarded multi-fold by Allah the Almighty.

His Royal Highness added that the month of Ramadan is much-awaited

by Muslims throughout the world; a month when the Muslim ummah will spend the time to enhance their religious deeds to obtain manifold rewards from the Almighty as a proof of their devotion to Allah. Ramadhan does not only teach the Muslim ummah to value time but also train them to be disciplined individuals.

His Royal Highness in the *sabda* also touched on the daily routine during Ramadan when the times for the *sahur* or pre-dawn supper, the fasting period, time for the *sungkai* or breaking the fast and time for prayers are well arranged. One of the activities encouraged during Ramadan, His Royal Highness added, is to keep oneself close to the mosque, where religious activities are held. His Royal Highness also called on the young generation to glorify the



PHOTOS: ABDUL KADIR MD. TAHIR

His Royal Highness presents dates to one of the recipients.

mosques especially during the holy and noble month of Ramadan.

This year, 134.5 metric tonnes or more than 440 thousand small boxes of dates of the Safawi type, have been ordered from Saudi Arabia, and each box contains 300 grams of the dates.

\$4.5 million to handle disaster incidents

JERUDONG, June 6 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) is being handling the project amounted \$4.5 million to handle any

disaster incidents.

In this regard, the contract signing ceremony for the project 'Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of

*Continue on page 15

60 per cent women active in economy

JERUDONG, July 8 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in her *sabda* said, statistic showed that 47 per cent of the residents in the country is women and some 60 per cent of them active in economy.

Her Royal Highness made the *sabda* in the 'Women in Business 2009 Forum' held at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom, Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Meanwhile, according to Her Royal Highness, some 40 per cent of the residents in the country went to work is women.

In business, said Her Royal Highness, more than half of the Small and Medium Entrepreneurs

in the country were own by women and it was encouraging where as SMEs contribute to more than 90 per cent job opportunities in private sector.

Some issues related to women and business were discussed at the forum with entitled 'Women Leading Change: Challenges and Opportunities' by the invited representatives locally and abroad.

'Women in Business 2009 Forum' was organised by AsiaInforum with the cooperation of Brunei Economy Development Board, Brunei Shell Petroleum Sendirian Berhad and Baiduri Bank.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna delivers her *sabda*.

Excellent women leaders receive award

JERUDONG, July 8 – Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah consented to present recognition awards to five excellent Brunei women leaders in various field.

The awards were presented in conjunction with 'Women In Business Forum 2009' held at the Empire Theatre, The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Also present at the ceremony was Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah.

The recipients were; Datin Paduka Dayang Apsah binti Haji Abdul Majid, Permanent Secretary (Core Education) at the Ministry of Education for 'Brunei Woman Leader in the Government'; and Dr. Kamariah binti Abu Salim, Senior Lecturer at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) for Brunei Woman Leader in the Academy'.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULLIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Their Royal Highnesses in a group photo with the excellent women leaders in various field.

* From page 14
(\$4.5 million to handle disaster incidents)

the C4i System for National Disaster Management Centre' was held at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The contract signing ceremony was between the NDMC and Information Technology Protective Security Services (ITPSS) Sendirian Berhad.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the Director of Fire and Rescue Department, Awang Yahya bin Haji Abdul Rahman as a Director of NDMC meanwhile ITPSS Sendirian Berhad was represented by Chief Executive Officer, Awang Samul Bahri bin Haji Khamis.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan. The project was started since May 9 and the system can be used in five months time.

The President of BNOC joins Olympic Day Run 2009

BERAKAS, June 21 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BNOC) launched and joined the Olympic Day Run 2009 held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

Also present was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah.

The Olympic Run were started with an aerobic session. It was organised by BNOC with the cooperation of Youths and Sports Department. Some 1,462 participants which divided into six categories including the people with special needs participated in the event.

His Royal Highness also launched the website of BNOC, www.brunelolympic.org.

The Olympic Day Run was held every year to celebrate World Olympic Day which falls on every June 23 to commemorate the formation of modern Olympic on June 23, 1984 in Paris.

Princess Hajah Masna stresses Halal Compliance



Her Royal Highness delivers a *sabda* at the launching of the 4th Brunei International Halal Market Conference 2009.

BERAKAS, August 1 – The *halal* sector holds a special significance to Brunei Darussalam as an Islamic country, which upholds the concept of Malay Islamic Monarchy.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade stated the matter while delivering a keynote address at the launching of the 4th Brunei International *Halal* Market Conference 2009 held at the International Convention Centre.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, in her *sabda*, pointed out that the *halal* sector in the country has developed threefold. Her Royal

Highness stressed, *halal* compliance is an essential part of a commitment to fulfil *fardu kifayah*, a collective responsibility with the country's way of life deeply rooted in Islamic teachings with strong credentials that provide high quality and affordable *halal* products and services. Her Royal Highness noted, since Brunei launched the Brunei Halal Brand two years ago, Brunei has developed a reputation for meeting high quality and stringent *halal* compliance.

The global *halal* market is estimated to value around two trillion US dollars a year with the *halal* food market alone

*Continue on page 16

* From page 15
(Princess Hajah Masna stresses *Halal* Compliance)

worth about US\$630 billion. This market will only grow bigger as the demand for *halal* products stretches across the globe reaching across section of consumers both Muslim and non-Muslim. The *halal* industry, she said, provides huge potential in many areas to tap into such as food Islamic finance, eco tourism, pharmaceutical products and various other forms of goods and services that are *syariah* compliant.

She stressed, the *halal* sector can further promote the development of SMEs, which make up 90% the business community in Brunei. The Government of His Majesty through the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Economic Development Board, other relevant ministries and agencies have already started to address various ways to help support local SMEs. Focus has been on capacity building, access to funding and export market as well as development of a national standard and quality regime of food.

The two-day conference was officiated by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Some working papers was presented in the conference which was held in conjunction with International *Halal* Product Expo 2009.

The theme for this year's conference was '*Halal - Jentera Pertumbuhan dan Peluang*' or *Halal - An Engine of Growth and Opportunity*'.



PHOTO: MASRU OSMAN

Reception Queen Elizabeth II birthday

The Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Haji Abdul Rahman and the High Commissioner of British to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency John Saville at the reception to mark the 83rd birthday anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the Empire Hotel and Country Club on June 8.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

Reception Philippines Day

The Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd Zain and the ambassador of the Republic of Philippines, Her Excellency Virginia H. Benavides at the reception to mark the 111th Independence Day of the Republic of Philippines at the International Convention Centre on June 16.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Reception Canada Day

The Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdullah and the High Commissioner of Canada, His Excellency Wendell Sanford at a reception in conjunction with Canada Day held at Sheraton Utama Hotel on June 27.

First ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Meeting

BANGKOK, August 22 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, attended the First ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council, ASCC Meeting, which took place at the Four Seasons Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand.

At the meeting, Her Royal Highness acknowledged the valuable work done by the various ASEAN bodies to carry out the activities under the socio-cultural Community Blueprint, which was adopted by the ASEAN Heads of States and Government in March this year. The blueprint aims to establish an ASEAN Community by 2015.

Her Royal Highness emphasised the need for ASEAN to prioritise areas of cooperation in order to effectively implement the blueprint. In this regard, Her Royal Highness highlighted that education, health, the protection of the environment and social issues were important priority areas. The meeting exchanged views on how the council can address the concerns



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

Reception National Day of the Republic of Indonesia

Present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan and wife attended a reception to celebrate the 64th National Day of Republic of Indonesia.

Also present was the Ambassador of Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Herijanto Soeprapto.

The reception was held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas on August 18.

of the people and contribute towards building the ASEAN Community.

The meeting agreed to recommend that education, the protection and promotion of the rights of women and children and the response to the



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

Reception France

The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Mejor General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Mohammad and the Ambassador of Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Louis Le Vert at the reception in conjunction with the 523rd National Day of the Republic of France on July 10 at the Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong.

social impact of the financial crisis be deliverables of the 15th ASEAN Summit in October this year. The meeting further agreed that the Second ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Meeting will be held in Thailand in October this year.

Methanol plant is a right target as plan

LUMUT, June 4 – The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Mohammad satisfied with the construction of Methanol plant which is the right target as planned and the first product will be expected in April 2010.

Yang Berhormat also stated that until now, some 142 posts have been

filled by the locals and only two per cent of the posts at the supervision level were from Japan.

Yang Berhormat stated the matter in an interview with the media during the working visit to the headquarters of Brunei Methanol Company (BMC) and the project site of Methanol Plant.

Yang Berhormat and a group of 12

people held a working visit to observe the implementation of the plant which is expected to be fully completed at the end of this year.

During the visit, Yang Berhormat and delegates were briefed on the status of the plant as well as in the security management at the construction area and management procedure if the fire happen.

Anti-Corruption Bureau listed in 'Transparency International'

BERAKAS, June 3 – The Anti-Corruption Bureau (BMR), Prime Minister's Office was one of the country listed in the 'Transparency International', one of the organisation which lead the global civil community to fight corruption.

Brunei Darussalam joined the 'Global Corruption Barometer Survey (The Barometer)' through ideas and corruption experienced known which started between October 2008 and March 2009.

Brunei Darussalam was in the third place after Singapore and Hong Kong in Asia Pasific region.

The Director of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Pengiran Kasmirhan bin Pengiran Haji Tahir stated the matter in a Media Conference Session held at Anti-Corruption Bureau.

This year, 'The Barometer' was the sixth edition, reflected the response of 73,132 people from 69 countries which offered the biggest nation coverage and latest.

In this regard, the Anti-Corruption Bureau will continuously improve its effort in tackling corruption among the public and assist them in making the complaints on the immoral habit through the provided ways as calling the BMR's hotline, through Short Messages Services (SMS) and through the BMR's Website.

The BMR's target in the next five years was to investigate private sector and business so that they will not involve in corruption.

Keep marine life resources for the future generation

MUARA, June 8 – In the survey done by the 'Centre for Ocean Solutions', University of Stanford, the area of Pasific Ocean and East Asia Ocean comprising Brunei Darussalam faced four-types of threat.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya stated the matter at the 'World Oceans Day' held at the Meragang Beach, Muara.

The threats were overfishing and exploitation; climate change; habitat destruction; and pollution.

With the theme 'Our Ocean, Our Responsible', the World Oceans Day

is celebrated every June 8 and Brunei Darussalam through the Department of Fishery celebrated the day for the first time this year.

In conjunction with World Oceans Day, the minister called all parties involves in oceans environment to keep the ocean in good condition and to keep the marine life resources for the future generation.

According to the minister, some international laws were enacted under the United Nations to overcome the threats which among others is the Convention 1982 as 'United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea'.

E-Government services main initiator to the public

GADONG, June 12 – As an effort to show e-Government as a main initiator machinery in providing services to the customer and public, the Prime Minister's Office for the first time held the e-Government Exhibition.

The exhibition was held at the Mall Gadong and launched by the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Seri Paduka Eusoff Agaki.

Present at the ceremony was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Khairul Khalil bin Pengiran Syed Haji Jaafari.

Soon after the launching, Dato Seri Paduka take a closer look at the exhibition booths from the government agencies and private sectors.

The three-day exhibition started on June 12 to 14 among others hoped to give understanding to the public on the e-Government projects not only from the technology side as 'enabler'

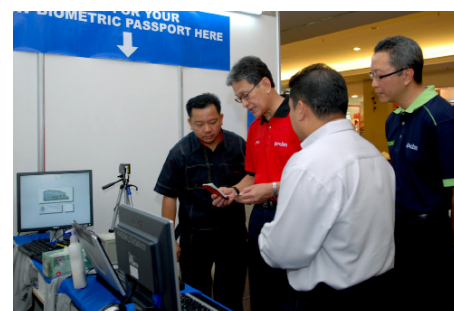


PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

but also from the side of 'connectivity' and interaction between the ministries and departments as well as government agencies and customer and the public.

A total of 14 government agencies and two private sectors participated in the exhibition with their products respectively.

Brunei – Singapore sign MOU in media cooperation

SINGAPORE, June 17 – Brunei Darussalam and Singapore signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to encourage bilateral cooperation in media especially digital media.

The MoU was signed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications, Haji Awang Alaihuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Utama Haji Awang Mohammad Taha on his

capacity as the Director of Broadcasting meanwhile the Chairman of Singapore Media Development Authority, Dr. Tan Chin Nam.

The agreement was based on the implementation of MoU on bilateral media that was signed by Brunei Darussalam and Singapore on October 6, 1990.

At the primary level, MoU have been produce cooperation in television

and radio every year including teater production; Bridging Minds; University Forum; *Pantun*, Malay Drama; and joint technical meeting between the two countries.

Apart from Brunei Darussalam, Singapore also signed media cooperation MOU with three other ASEAN members, Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand.

BIACC receives ISO 9001:2000 recognition

GADONG, July 2 – The Brunei International Air Cargo Centre (BIACC) last January received the official recognition of ISO 9001:2000 from Veritas Bureau in the United Kingdom based on the quality of its management.

The presentation of the certificates of ISO 9001:2000 and the launching of Brunei International Air Cargo SMS Information System (BICAST) was held at the hotel in Gadong.

Present at the ceremony was the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Awang Lim Jock Seng as Chairman of Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA).

Brunei International Air Cargo Centre started its services since 2002 after taking over the air cargo services from RBA.

Within one week, BIACC was handling some 100 air cargo which among others are from RBA, Singapore Airlines (SIA), Malaysia Airlines (MAS), Thai Airways as well as other non-schedule and rented airlines.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II while launching the Brunei International Air Cargo SMS Information System (BICAST).

PHOTO: PG-HAJI BAHAR PG-HAJI OMAR

The Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement signs by Brunei-Malaysia

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, August 5 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Mohd. Najib witnessed the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement by Brunei-Malaysia.

Signing on behalf Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Finance II, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim manwhile the Minister of International Trade and Industry, Yang Berhormat Dato' Mustapa Mohamed signed on behalf Malaysia.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



PHOTO: RAWILI TENGAH

The Memorandum of Understanding for 'The Report Brunei Darussalam 2009'

GADONG, July 23 – The Memorandum of Understanding for the publishing of 'The Report: Brunei Darussalam 2009' between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Oxford Business Group (OBG) was held at the Centre of Strategic and Policy Studies (CSPS).

Signing on behalf of His Majesty's Government was the Senior Duties Officer at the Prime Minister's Office, Awang Haji Osman bin Haji Mohammad meanwhile OBG was signed by its Director, Dayang Neslihan Ayyadul.

Present to witness the signing ceremony were the Permanent

Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Osman bin Pengiran Haji Patra and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Khairul Khalil bin Pengiran Syed Haji Jaafari.

Last year, more than 59 thousands pieces were distributed at the international level and this year it will increase by 70 per cent.

Myanmar contributes various materials for Brunei Museum

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 23 - In order to increase the collection for the ASEAN Corner Exhibition at the Brunei Museum, the Ambassador of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Thura The On Maung has donated 13 materials and handcrafts of the country so that Bruneian and the museum's visitors will know and understand the art of Myanmar.

The donation was received by the

Director of Brunei Museum, Bantong bin Antaran at the ASEAN Corner Exhibition.

The materials and handcrafts donated were Myanmar Harp, traditional music; sejenis alat muzik tradisi diperbuat daripada buluh yang lazimnya digunakan di kalangan masyarakat tempatan di Myanmar, collection of ethnic-puppet made

from Porcelain which shows ten ethnics in Myanmar; Myanmar Tuban made from clothes and wear by men; seven type of Lacquer ware; and traditional clothes.

All the materials and handcrafts were exhibited at the ASEAN Corner at the Brunei Museum. ASEAN Corner was one of the ways to identify the ASEAN community and culture.

RIPAS's new plant cost more than \$15 million

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 3 - The Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital will have a new plant Mechanical and Electrical Engineering building amounted \$15,860,739.34.

The foundation laying ceremony for the new plant was lead by the Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Suyoi held at the new site of the RIPAS Hospital.

The construction of new building in an area of 0.89 acre located at the temporary parking area of RIPAS Hospital and will take 14 months and will be completed in February 2010.

The services provide are laundry services, office and estate maintenance. The new plant building is hope to improve the system level of air conditioner and electricity at the RIPAS Hospital apart from to improve laundry services.

The new recreation park launched

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 14 - Another recreation park located at Jalan Menteri Besar was launched by the Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdullah.

The launching ceremony was held with the aerobic and 'Green Walk' in conjunction with World Environment Day.

The recreation park was located near the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance buildings with an area of almost 32 hectar. Among the facilities provided at the park were walking area; huts and parking area.

Observe health strategy base on global challenge

JERUDONG, July 4 - Brunei Darussalam has achieved a very good health status through the development health care system in the country since more than 100 years ago.

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi stated the matter at the launching of the Vision and Strategy of Ministry of Health 2035 held at the Empire Hotel and Country Club. However, the minister said that this is not mean we satisfied with the success. The minister said that, the Ministry of Health needs to move forward to scrutinize health strategy with considering the internal and global challenges.

The Focus on the five strategies were Comprehensive health care system; practice health life-style; the endurance through the use of resource which is optima; innovation and excellent; an effective procedure and policy as well as the transparency and proactive procedure and administration.

Touched on the Ministry of Health's Vision 2035, 'Together towards a healthy nation', the minister said that the vision gives a clear meaning, easy to understand and remembrance especially for the Ministry of Health personnel.

The minister also said that, the nation is aware to the challenges face by the health sector, among others to fight the appearance of new infectious disease as Influenza A (H1N1) which hit a lot of countries including Brunei Darussalam.

In this matter, the minister said that cooperation with the other agencies involve in fighting the challenges is very important.

SEAMEO Voctech and BLA sign MoU

GADONG, July 7 - SEAMEO Voctech centre and Brunei Darussalam Librarian Association (BLA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in training fields for the librarians in the Ministry of Education.

Signing on behalf SEAMEO Voctech was the Acting Director, Haji Awang Yussof bin Haji Awang Mohamad meanwhile the President of BLA, Mrs. Nellie binti Dato Paduka Haji Sunny signed on behalf of the association.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Corporate Services) at the Ministry of Education, Dayang Hajah Norjum binti Haji Yussop.

Under the MoU, SEAMEO Voctech centre will provide the place as well as facilities needed by the BLA to organised any courses related to library. The MoU is an effort of the association to produce the quality librarians and professional which became the main responsibility of the BLA.

Brunei joins UNIFIL peace keeping mission in Lebanon

RIMBA, July 21 - Seven members of Royal Brunei Armed Forces will joint their compatriot from Malaysia to Lebanon to continue peace-keeping force under the United Nation of Organization mandate - PBB's Interim Team (UNIFIL).

This is the second sending of the ABDB's personnel which gave mandate security control together with Malaysia Army Forces under the order of contingent Malaysia, MALCON WEST 2 which was established on Mac 17, 2009 in Kem Batu 10, Kuantan.

The bid farewell ceremony was held at the Hangar B, Royal Brunei Air Force. The national flag was presented to the contingent by the Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Mohammad Yasmin.

Also present was the Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Yang Dimulaikan Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi.

Breast feed strategy for saviour life

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 1 - World Health Organisation called the mothers to provide an exclusively breast feeding to their child since birth until six months as a strategy for saviour life.

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Suyoi stated the matter in a message in conjunction with World Breast Feeding Week which was held on August 1 to 7.

The Breast Feeding Week was celebrated worldwide each year to support breast feeding and to increase the baby's health.

The World Breast Feeding Week was held to commemorate Innocenti Declaration made by World Health Organization policy maker and UNICEF in August 1990 to protect, promote and motivate the breast feed.

Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Health celebrated the World Breast Feeding Week with theme 'Breast Feeding - Important Reaction When Disaster. Have We Prepare?'

This year theme remind us how important the breast feeding in protecting, promoting and motivating breast feeding when disaster for the baby and children under two years for their safety, health and enlargement.

Ban on open burning order enforce

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 4 – The ban on open burning order will be enforced if the public still doing the open burning. However in an early stage, the public will be given a warning and advise and the order will be imposed to those involved if they are still doing the open burning..

The action for that enforcement of order emphasised by Environment Senior Officer at the Environment, Park and Recreation (JASTRE), Awang Haji Shahrudin Khairul bin Haji Anuar in press conference held at National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC).

He said currently, JASTRE with the cooperation of various agency have conducted an early preparation in handling dryness problem in the country which resulted haze phenomenon and further to monitor the total hotspots which have been increase since early August.

Apart from that, the patrol also being conducted with the relevant agencies throughout the county to ban the public in doing open burning especially when air quality in medium and unhealthy level.

Commamder RBAF conferred Knight Grand Cross (First Class)

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 6 - The Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), Yang Dimullakan Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi was coffered the prestigious decoration of The Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand by His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The award was presented by His Excellency General Songkitti Jaggabatara, Chief of Defence Force, Royal Thai Armed Forces (RTAF) at the RTAF Headquarters in Bangkok on July 27, 2009.

The prestigious decoration was awarded in recognition of the Commander RBAF exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of his outstanding service in the position of Commander of RBAF. Also, in this position of great responsibility, the Commander RBAF has demonstrated his distinguished service, outstanding accomplishments, and contribution to the good relation between RBAF and RTAF.

The Commander of the RBAF was in Thailand for three days commencing 26 to 28 July 2009.

BIMP-EAGA Ministers' Meeting discusses current issues and cooperation

BERAKAS, August 8 - Brunei Darussalam became a host country to the 14th Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines - East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Ministers' Meeting with a discussion on some issues on the current development and direction of cooperation among the BIMP-EAGA.

The meeting was held at the International Convention Centre and chaired by the Minsiter of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Lim Jock Seng.

In a joint statement release, the BIMP-EAGA ministers said that the meeting discussed the challenges face by the BIMP-EAGA, especially by the global economy sluggish.

The ministers also aware that the challenges provide an opportunity for the BIMP-EAGA to cooperate more closer towards strengthening competitiveness, to speed the economies integration apart from improve trade, tourism and regional investment.

The ministers also encouraged the important progress in implementation the development of BIMP-EAGA Road Map 2006-2010, especially in the relation of transportation, tourism, trade facilities and the development of small and medium entrepreneurship.

The meeting was participated by 150 delegates from BIMP-EAGA countries and d Australia, Japan, Asia Development Bank, BIMP-EAGA Business Council and Germany Technical Cooperation Corporate (GTZ).

In counjunction with the meeting, BIMP-EAGA Business and Trade Expo was held. The expo is hoped to promote awareness and to spark new ideas by enhance knowledge and shares experience through an expo and the meeting.

Brunei brings home one silver and two bronze

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 10 – Brunei won one silver and two bronze medals in Pencak Silat event in the First Asia Marital Arts Championship which was held in Bangkok, Thailand on August 1 to 9.

The silver medal was won through Amirul Ahat in the men class 'A' Pencak Silat event. Meanwhile, the bronze medals was won through Khuzaiman Ahmad in the men class 'D' event and Pengiran Khairul Bahri bin Pengiran Ali Omar in the men class 'F' event..

More than 40 countries in Asia participated in the championship which involves almost 1,450 athlets, officers and coach.

Thailand as a host country emerged at the overall champion with 21 gold; 17 silver and 16 bronze. The second place was Kazakhstan with 15 gold; 7 silver and 12 bronze and South Korea in the third place with 10 gold, six silver and three bronze.

Nine events competed in the tournament which is Karatedo, Wushu and Kungfu, Taekwando, Muay, Kickboxing, Jujitsu, Judo, Kurash and Pencak Silat.

Brunei hosts 6th AACC

JERUDONG, August 11 – Royal Brunei Air Force hosted the 6th ASEAN Air Chiefs Conference (6th AACC) from August 10 to 13.

The conferece was officiated by the Deputy Minister of Defence, Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Retired) Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohammad Yasmin .

This was the first time Brunei hosted the AACC. The conference was an annual meeting attended by all ASEAN Air Chiefs to discuss matters pertaining to air power, common issues and challenges faced by all Air Forces in the region.

ASEAN Air Chiefs Conference was hosted in rotation based where the 1st AACC was hosted by Thailand followed by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore. Vietnam will be hosting the 7th AACC next year.

The itinerary of the conference included symposium feature presentations by three military officials and experts eminently qualified on the subjects and Open Forum among the Air Chiefs.

The conference offered the ideal forum and opportunity for air power leaders in the ASEAN Region to share their insights and exchange professional views on how to contribute collectively in making our part of the world safe and secure from the threats.

The ASEAN Air Chiefs will also attend the official launching of the 2nd Brunei International Defence Exhibition (BRIDEX) 2009 at BRIDEX Centre, Jerudong. Meanwhile, the Air Chiefs' spouses visited places of interest in Brunei Darussalam to experience and have a closer look on Brunei cultures.