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Brunei Darussalam celebrates 33rd National Day



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 gracing the 33rd National Day Celebration at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien. Accompanying His Majesty at the celebration were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 23 - 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 graced the country's 33rd National Day Celebration at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed

Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

Shortly after their arrival, the National Anthem was sung and His Majesty was later invited to inspect the Guard of Honour mounted by personnel from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF).

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Royalty graces Chinese New Year 2017



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 and members of the royal family in a group photo at the 2017 Chinese New Year Celebration.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to grace the Chinese community in celebrating the Chinese New Year 2017, year of the Rooster.

The celebration took place at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran

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5. His Majesty presents and receives Letters of Credence



8. His Majesty's surprise visit to Gadong night market



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19. His Royal Highness graces separate high-tea receptions hosted by RBPF and RBAF



22. 382 recipients receive State Honorary Medals



23. Brunei - Thailand discuss matters of common interest in education



23. Iran Embassy celebrates 38th anniversary of Iran Islamic Revolution



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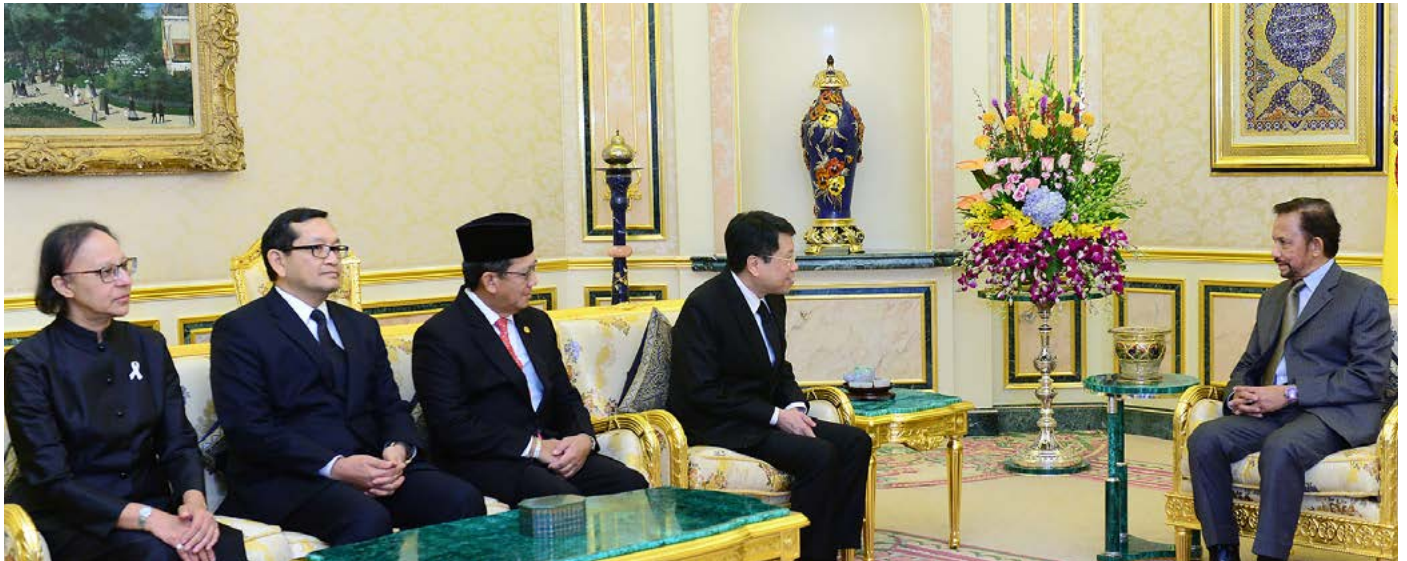
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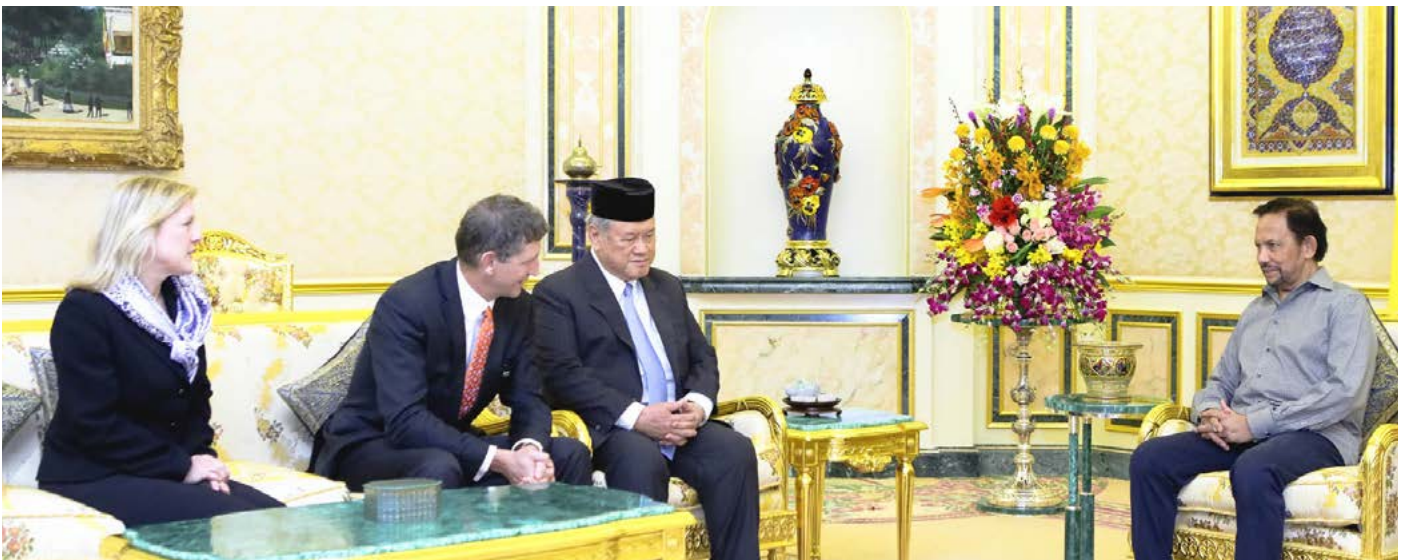
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His Majesty receives audiences

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 Dr. Teerakiat Jareonsettasin, Thailand's Minister of Education as President of the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization Council (SEAMEO Council) on February 9.



Mr. Andrew Faulkner, outgoing Managing Director of Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd. (BSP) and Mrs. Ceri Powell newly-appointed Managing Director of BSP on February 13.

Her Majesty receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman:



Her Excellency Kamilah binti Haji Mohd. Hanifah, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Japan (left) and Hajah Shukrinah binti Haji Ibrahim, spouse of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman (right).

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:

- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the occasion of the Sapphire Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on February 7;
- His Excellency Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of its National Day on February 11; and
- His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, the government and people of the State of Kuwait on the occasion of Kuwait's National Day on February 25.

HRH the Crown Prince receives audiences

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 received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezan:



His Excellency Air Vice Marshal Mahmud Hussain, High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam on February 21.



His Excellency Do Anh Tuan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam on February 21.



His Excellency Marcal Avelino Ximenes, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to Brunei Darussalam on February 21.



His Excellency Mehmet Suat Akgun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey to Brunei Darussalam on February 21.



His Excellency Haji Sulaini bin Haji Said, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman and Her Excellency Kamillah binti Haji Mohd. Hanifah, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Japan on February 28.

His Majesty presents and receives Letters of Credence

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 15 - 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

presented Letters of Credence to newly-appointed Brunei Darussalam Envoys and received Letters of Credence from newly-appointed Foreign Envoys to Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman. After the

ceremonies, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience the newly-appointed Brunei Darussalam Envoys and the newly-appointed Foreign Envoys to Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting Letters of Credence to His Excellency Haji Sulaini bin Haji Said, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman (left) and Her Excellency Kamilah binti Haji Mohd. Hanifah, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam of Brunei Darussalam to Japan (right).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving Letters of Credence from His Excellency Air Vice Marshal Mahmud Hussain, High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam (left) and His Excellency Do Anh Tuan, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam (right).



His Majesty receiving Letters of Credence from His Excellency Mehmet Suat Akgun, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Brunei Darussalam (left) and His Excellency Marcal Avelino Ximenes, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to Brunei Darussalam (right).

Royalty grace Chinese New Year 2017 (continued)



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 upon arrival.

From front page

Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam and other members of the royal family.

The celebration began with the singing of the National Anthem followed with the presentation of a *pesambah* (souvenir) to His Majesty. The event also saw a pledge of allegiance by members of the Chinese community, led by Muhammad Firdaus bin Abdul Rahman @ Tan Kah Hock, also the Secretary and Chief Event Planner of the celebration.

A traditional dance performance by students of Chung Hwa Middle School, Bandar Seri Begawan, with a concept based on a fusion of traditional Malay culture and Chinese community culture, enlivened the event.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signing on the screen after the meet-and-greet with students online through video conference.



Their Majesties and members of the royal family mingling with performers from Chung Hwa Middle School, Bandar Seri Begawan (above).

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman (left).



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah at the ceremony.



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 bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, Chief of Adat Istiadat Negara (left) and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam and Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Kapitan Lela Diraja Dato Paduka Goh King China (right).

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Unlike the previous years, the performance this time was held with a new concept themed "Innovative Youth as the Prime Mover of National Vision (*Belia Berinovasi Penggerak Wawasan Negara*)" which highlighted the young people as a vital asset in speeding up the process of national development in achieving the National Vision 2035.

Also for the first time, the celebration was held with an Open House concept through video conference with the aim of giving Their Majesties and members of the royal family the opportunity to interact and socialise with the common society.

The initiative not only reflects the loving and caring attitude of His Majesty, but it also increases the people and residents' loyalty towards the beloved monarch.

Other performances include the recital of poetry as well as Malay and Chinese Dances to reflect the cultural interaction and harmony of the multi-racial society in this country.

Before leaving, Their Majesties consented to receive greetings from the Chinese community.



A pledge of allegiance by members of the Chinese community, led by Awang Muhammad Firdaus bin Abdul Rahman @ Tan Kah Hock who is also the Secretary and Chief Event Planner of the celebration (above). Among the colourful performances during the 2017 Chinese New Year Celebration (left).

His Majesty's surprise visit to Gadong night market

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 3 - 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 made an unscheduled visit to the newly-refurbished night market, the Pasar Pelbagai Barangan Gadong (PPBG) – known as Pasar Gadong or Gadong Night Market which was initiated under the Julangan Titah Project.

Despite the rainy weather, it was a blessing for the people and residents of this country, especially the vendors and visitors who had the opportunity to meet and mingle with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in person and have a face-to-face conversation with the king who is always close to their hearts.

The visit reflects His Majesty's concern about the welfare of his people including the well-being of local vendors.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was greeted by a crowd of people who were thronging the busy market looking for their favorite local delicacies.



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 mingles with the vendors and visitors at the market.

His Majesty also strolled through the spacious alleyways and conversed with the vendors of the 150 stalls, which are typically open from late afternoon to midnight, during his visit to the market.

The newly-refurbished market shows His Majesty's concern for the vendors at the popular night market and as well

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam interacting with vendors (above and below).





His Majesty mingling with visitors of the market (above and below).

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as the Monarch's commitment to resolve the problems faced by the hard-working vendors who have been keeping the market appealing to visitors.

The new PPBG has taken into account the needs of vendors and visitors: ample parking space, high-roof ceilings, a smoke ventilation system, spacious alleyways, a prayer hall and other amenities including fire prevention, routine maintenance and hygiene control.



RBPF urged to uplift efforts in enforcing law



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, Inspector General of Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the event.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 18 - 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 Inspector General of RBPF in his *titah* (royal speech) at the 96th Police Day Parade held at the Police Training Centre's Parade Ground in Gadong, urged The Royal Brunei Police Force to strengthen law enforcements



His Majesty the 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, and Deputy Inspector General of the RBPF receive *junjung ziarah* from police officers.

efforts in accordance with its vital role for stability, peace, and, national security.

RBPF must enhance its organisation, besides actively undergoing necessary changes towards enriching the mind and strengthening ethics, as law enforcers.

"Here, we shall not forget to strengthen our services with discipline, integrity, sincerity and quality, in order to effectively tackle the challenges that are regularly being faced," said His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

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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 receiving a Royal Salute at the parade.

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Integrity and ethics are always needed as they are closely related to policing work and are prerequisites for police service. It is important as a guarantee that the services delivered to stakeholders or the society are excellent," His Majesty added.

His Majesty emphasised that the time has come for police ethics to be integrated

into the administration of the force.

With this in place, His Majesty believes that the weak, insincere, less trustworthy and other negative elements which can harm the organisation can be deterred.

His Majesty urged RBPF to have a clear work ethic, to enable the execution of tasks by working hard, intelligently, sincerely and by not expecting anything

in return.

"A person who has a healthy work ethic, will carry out the duties without differentiating social status and race, and will show respect to others.

"If this is strengthened, the police force will become stronger and will gain a strong trust from the community, which will help them establish a strong bond with the public and will naturally become a catalyst towards solidarity and harmony," said His Majesty.

To help policing work successfully, the monarch believes that public commitment is certainly necessary, but this does not mean that the police personnel only know how to wait or be too reliant on public cooperation, because if this happens, it will certainly make the police force weaker.

"If the police force is weak," added His Majesty, "doors to crime will be harder to close, crimes will easily increase and the country may not be able to prevent as its security mechanism is weak."

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inaugurating the new building of the Police Headquarters.

Among the senior police officers attending the 96th Police Day Parade.





His Majesty inspecting the Guard of Honour mounted by the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) at the parade (left and below).



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His Majesty further said, “naturally, crime is a complex phenomenon and must be eliminated and there is no compromise in it.”

According to His Majesty, crime is not only to an individual, but also to the country as a whole, therefore RBPF needs to improve its capacity and capability, comparable to

the excellent police forces in the world.

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His Majesty; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkihah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Nor'ain in a group photo during the Inauguration Ceremony of Police Headquarter's new building.

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The RBPF was also reminded not to remain at the existing level, but to continuously seek better ways to change and improve to a much better level and be able to deal with various issues and challenges.

Earlier, His Majesty also touched on the 96 years' formation of RBPF which shows that the force has matured enough to face any challenges brought about by globalisation and a borderless world.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were His Majesty's son, brother and sisters, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Deputy Inspector General of the RBPF; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Honorary Commissioner of Police; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Commandant of the Women Police; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Nor'ain, Deputy Commandant of the Women Police.

Shortly after the arrival, His Majesty received the Royal Salute and later inspected the RBPF contingents' involving some 932 police personnel from various departments within the RBPF led by Police Superintendent Mazalan bin Haji Awang Yaakub.

His Majesty also inspected a Guard of Honour and march-past from the participating contingents, and a mass pledge of loyalty led by Senior Superintendent of Police, Chipli bin Haji Mohammad, Acting Deputy Director of Operations.



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 listening to an explanation at one of the departments at the new Police Headquarters.

Earlier before His Majesty proceeded to the new building of the Police Headquarters for the Inauguration Ceremony, His Majesty and other members of the royal family also consented to receive a *junjung ziarah* from the former commissioners of police.

Later at the new building, His Majesty consented to sign a plaque in conjunction with the unveiling of the new building and received a *pesambah* (souvenir) followed by a group photo with senior government officers and police high ranking officers.

Before leaving, His Majesty also visited to various departments at the second and fourth floors of the building and witnessed the exhibition on caps and swords before signing a commemorative parchment.



Among the Royal Brunei Police Force contingents' participating at the 96th Police Day Parade (left and below).



Implement Brunei Vision 2035 with full commitment



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) on the eve of the 33rd National Day Celebration at Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 22 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) on the eve of the 33rd National Day Celebration 2017 at Istana Nurul Iman said that the country should be more agile to produce high results that can contribute to progress and help the nation realise the Brunei Vision 2035 vision, which should not only sound beautiful when conveyed in words as it is intellectually rhetoric, but it should also be implemented with full commitment and determination.

To realise the three main goals of the Brunei Vision 2035, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented for the formation of a working framework which, among others, outlines the core areas that should be given attention for achieving the vision goals where leaders for every strategy have also been appointed.

His Majesty urged the people to be united and ensure that all efforts are based on consensus, are relevant, and meet the

current needs as it is key to the success of the nation's vision 2035.

"This covers all, whether they are in the government or in the private sector, and it is crucial to instil the spirit of cooperation and understanding, where every sector is required to work as a team without engaging in matters that are against the law.

Although the country has the infrastructure, technology, equipment, mechanism and a good system, if our intention is bad, the outcome will also be bad," said the Monarch.

His Majesty also gave an example that if there is corruption in the government, even though the workforce is highly skilful, it will drag the nation towards a bad state.

His Majesty also stressed the importance of avoiding corruption and to learn lessons from places affected by hardships due to corruption and it should be controlled to prevent the nation from experiencing undesirable developments.

According to His Majesty, the current National Day theme "Accomplishing the National Vision" is appropriate following the three consecutive years utilisation of the theme "Visionary Generation."

His Majesty also emphasised on nurturing noble traits such as honesty, trustworthiness and loyalty because without these characteristics, life or administrative mechanisms will not run well, and could be problematic and weak.

"Only then, will all parties, especially the new generation will truly appreciate and love independence.

"It should be remembered that independence is part of the nation's history and the 'crown' of the nation. Neglecting independence means neglecting history, which will in turn put the crown of the nation in disarray," His Majesty added.

Lastly, His Majesty also expressed his gratitude to all citizens and residents – including members of the public service sector (locally and abroad), security agencies, and private sector, and prayed for the people and country to remain under the care and protection of Allah the Almighty.

Brunei Darussalam celebrates 33rd National Day (continued)

From front page

This year saw the involvement of more than 23 thousand participants from 133 teams – commencing with members of the RBAF carrying a giant-sized national flag and oath readers carrying national flags and the National Day logo.

This was followed by contingents of the RBAF, RBPF; uniformed government teams; people with different abilities (OKU); a group of excellent achievers; government ministries and departments; districts representatives; higher education institutions; colleges, government and private secondary and primary schools; expatriate teams, public organisations and private sectors.

The National Day oath was then led by Muhammad Ihsan Sabri bin Haji Abdul Manap, Acting Assistant Brunei-Muara District Officer followed by the three calls of "Allahu Akbar (Allah is most great)" by participants.

The celebration was further enlivened with performances themed "Accomplishing the National Vision" involving some 6,833 participants from various sectors and agencies including



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 members of the royal family during the 33rd National Day at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

youths representing higher education institutions; colleges and secondary schools.

His Majesty also had a get-together session with some of the participants prior to leaving the event.

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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 inspecting the Guard of Honour at the 33rd National Day Celebration.

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Previously, on February 22, His Majesty also attended a Kesyukuran Ceremony in conjunction with the 33rd National Day Celebration at the Sultan Omar 'Ali

Saifuddien Mosque.

The ceremony consisted of a mass Maghrib and Isyak Prayer, Sunat Hajat Prayer, Surah Yaa Sin recitation and *doa*

kesyukuran.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince' Abdul Wakeel.

The ceremony was also held simultaneously in all mosques, suraus and religious halls across the country, with a focus on several mosques in each district.

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His Majesty the 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; His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince' Abdul Wakeel at the Kesyukuran Ceremony in conjunction with the 33rd National Day Celebration (left).



Colourful performances during the 33rd National Day Grand Assembly emphasising the role of the youth as agents of national transformation.





His Majesty during the get-together session with some of the participants at the event.



The recitation of National Day oath led by Muhammad Ihsan Sabri bin Haji Abdul Manap, Acting Assistant Brunei-Muara District Officer.



A march-past by uniformed personnel carrying national flags (above, left); and a march-past representing various organisations (above, right and below)



Among the congregants attending the Kesyukuran Ceremony at the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque in the capital in conjunction with the 33rd National Day Celebration.

Healthy citizens towards achieving Brunei Vision 2035



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 members of the royal family participating in the 16-kilometre cycling event which began and ended at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 26 - The aspects of a healthy lifestyle and recreation to foster national unity through the appreciation of sports culture and community involvement as a whole lead to the creation of healthy citizens towards achieving the Brunei Vision 2035.

Towards generating a healthy life in the country, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to participate in the National Day Cycling Spirit 2017 (Kayuhan Semangat Hari Kebangsaan 2017) which began and ended at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

Cycling has become increasingly popular and was also chosen as part of the activity to spruce up Brunei Darussalam's 33rd National Day Celebration in promoting an active and healthy lifestyle among the

society.

Also gracing the event were His Majesty's sons, brothers and daughters; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family were greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth

and Sports and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi, Minister of Health.

The event began with the release of 30 balloons by three ministries and three pigeons by children participants marking the start of the 16 kilometre National Day cycling event.

His Majesty along with members of the royal family later joined the 16-kilometre cycling event which was also participated by cabinet ministers; deputy ministers; ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Brunei Darussalam and foreign representatives; permanent secretaries and deputy permanent secretaries, guests and members of the public including foreigners.

The cycling route passes a number

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family during the cycling event.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family during the cycling event.

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of main roads including Jalan Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, Jalan Haji Basir, Jalan Kumbang Pasang, Jalan Perdana Menteri, the roundabout of Jalan Utama Berakas/Muara, Jalan Tasek and Jalan Kianggeh.

Soon after the ride, His Majesty later witnessed a cycle-past of some 33 cyclists consisting of national cycling athletes and representatives from ministries and government departments as well as from associations for the 33 kilometre Category Event; 18 Classic Riding participants; 33 Fixie Bicycle participants who also performed a special performance using bicycles and 33 children bikers.

The number 33 symbolises the 33rd Brunei Darussalam National Day Anniversary Celebration in 2017 with this year's theme "Accomplishing the National Vision".

At the event, His Majesty also received a *pesambah* (souvenir) from the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Cycling as a form of recreation has shown that it is not only a good way to live, but that it can also bring people in the country

closer together. Other than promoting a healthy lifestyle, the cycling culture in the country was also meant to make the capital more fun during weekends.

His Majesty's participation in the cycling activity serves as a testament to his ardent aspiration to promote sports engagement among the populace.

The event was co-organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Health with the involvement of various other ministries as well as the Brunei Darussalam Cycling Federation.

In addition to cycling, His Majesty also visited the exhibition booths set up along Jalan Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, which included the Al-Fatihah Clinic; local painters' activity; Art Expression Bazaar; Youth Development Centre; Cycling Clinic and Takaful Brunei Am Sdn. Bhd. (TBA) which enliven the Bandarku Ceria activities.

His Majesty also toured and had a closer look at the numerous activities being held such as the sales of clothing, food, beverages, sports accessories, children's games, garage sales and many more.



Also joining the cycling event was Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah (above).



Members of the public from all walks of life gathering at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien eager to join the cycling recreation (right).

Higher Education Expo 2017 offers various programmes

JERUDONG, February 11 - The Higher Education Expo 2017 offers students who aspire to further their studies in the country and abroad a better understanding about participating institutions and the programmes offered.

The expo brings together all government, private and international post-secondary and higher education institutions under one roof as a platform for the public and students to explore post-secondary and higher education opportunities either domestically or abroad.

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 consented to launch the expo organised by the Ministry of Education (MoE).

Upon arrival at the Bridex Hall, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Education.

The ceremony began with the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah followed by a *doa selamat* led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.

Soon after officiating the education expo, His Royal Highness toured the exhibition featuring higher educational institutions in the country and abroad.

Among the local government institutions participating in the exhibition are Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Universiti



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 touring the Higher Education Expo 2017.

Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB), Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB); Politeknik Brunei (PB) and the Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE).

The private local institutions include Laksamana College of Business, Kolej International Graduate Studies (IGS), Micronet International College, Cosmopolitan College of Commerce and Technology, Kemuda Institute and Brunei Darussalam Institute of Certified Public Accountants (BICPA).

The expo was also attended by international higher education institutes including Glasgow Caledonian University, RMIT University, Michigan State University, INTI College, University of Nottingham, Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation, Kolej Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Selangor and SEGi University.

Meanwhile, other local agencies participating at the expo are Darussalam Enterprise (DARE), Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad (BSP) and E-Village under the National Entrepreneurship Agenda initiative of the MoE.

While, the MoE was represented by the Scholarship Division, Higher Education Division - especially the Education Loan Facility

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His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office launching the Higher Education Expo 2017.



Among those present at the launching ceremony were cabinet ministers and deputy ministers.



His Royal Highness taking a closer look at one of the activities at the expo.



His Royal Highness at the Higher Education Expo 2017.

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Scheme; Higher Education Centralised Admission System (HECAS) and the Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council.

The expo was part of the MoE's initiative to improve students' enrolment in post-secondary education and increase the number of graduates who enter higher education programmes, thus helping in the overall development of the country's economy.

His Royal Highness graces separate high-tea receptions hosted by RBPF and RBAF

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 21 - 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 as Deputy Inspector General of Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran

Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman attended a high-tea reception held in conjunction with the Crown Prince's 43rd Birthday

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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 and the Deputy Inspector General of Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) cutting a birthday cake at the ceremony. Accompanying His Royal Highness was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman (right).



Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Commandant of the Women's Police; and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar Chief of Adat Istiadat Negara (below).





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 receiving *pesambah* (souvenir) (left); and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah receiving a *junjung ziarah* (right).



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Celebration hosted by Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPf).

Present alongside His Royal Highness the Crown Prince at the Officers' Mess of Police Headquarter were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Commandant of the Women's Police and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, Chief of Adat Istiadat Negara.

At the reception, His Royal Highness signed a commemorative parchment, followed by a group photo. The ceremony

was further enlivened by a cake-cutting ceremony.

His Royal Highness also consented to receive a *pesambah* (souvenir).

Meanwhile on February 17, a similar event was also hosted by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) at the Bolkiah Garrison Officers' Mess.

Accompanying Their Royal Highnesses were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Rabi'atul Adawiyah.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness who is also the General of RBAF was introduced to the member of RBAF officers including those who won gold medals in the 26th ASEAN Armies Rifles Meets (AARM) Shooting Tournament at the Republic of

the Philippines last year; RBAF officers who have return after completing courses abroad; the best award recipients at the latest 15th Intake Cadet Officer School and the recipients of the RBAF Supreme Commander Scholarship and RBAF Scholarship.

His Royal Highness then watched a video clip and was presented a photobook album titled "Sejambak Ristaan 10" – which contains a collection of photographs documenting His Royal Highness's visit to the Ministry of Defence and RBAF.

The event then proceeded with the signing of a commemorative parchment, a cutting-cake ceremony and presentation of a *pesambah*.

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Their Royal Highnesses in a group photo at the ceremony.

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His Royal Highness cutting a birthday cake at the ceremony. Accompanying His Royal Highness was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah.



Accompanying Their Royal Highnesses were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Rabi'atul Adawiyah.



His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness receiving a *junjung ziarah* (left); and His Royal Highness receiving a *pesambah* (right).

382 recipients receive State Honorary Medals



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 at the ceremony as personal representative to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 28 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has conferred State Honorary Medals to 382 recipients in honour of the monarch's 70th Birthday Anniversary Celebration.

The ceremony took place at Balai Singgahsana Indera Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Conferring the medals as personal representative to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Sixty-one recipients were conferred with the Meritorious Service Medal or Pingat Jasa Kebaktian (PJK) comprising 20 personnel from PMO; 33 recipients from the Ministry of Defence (MinDef); two from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA); three from the

Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) and another three from the Ministry of Communications.

This was followed by the presentation of Pingat Indah Kerja Baik (PIKB) to 321 recipients comprising 144 officers from PMO; 96 from the MinDef; 11 from the Ministry of Finance; 16 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; 23 from MoHA; 11 from the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism and 20 recipients from the Ministry of Communications.

To bless the ceremony, a *doa selamat* was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned the State Mufti.

Also in attendance were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-Pengiran Cheterias; cabinet ministers; members of Privy Council; deputy ministers; Pengiran-Pengiran Peranakan; Pehin-Pehin Manteri; Manteri-Manteri Pedalaman, high commissioners; foreign ambassadors; permanent secretaries, heads of departments, senior government officers as well as mukim penghulus and village heads.



Among those present were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-Pengiran Cheterias and Pengiran-Pengiran Peranakan.



Also in attendance were cabinet ministers, members of Privy Council; deputy ministers and Pehin-Pehin Manteri.

Brunei - Thailand discuss matters of common interest in education

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 9 - Brunei Darussalam and Thailand continue to strengthen close cooperation in the field of education including a series of exchange visits and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Education Cooperation on October 19, 2009.

In this regard, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Education received a courtesy visit from His Excellency Dr. Teerakiat Jareonsettasin, the Minister of Education of Thailand as President of the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization Council (SEAMEO Council) during a meeting which took place at The Rizqun International Hotel.

Also in attendance were senior officials from the Ministry of Education (MoE), including Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Mohd Salleh, Permanent Secretary (Core Education) and Haji Abdul Rahim bin Derus, Director-General of Education.

His Excellency Dr. Jareonsettasin was accompanied by His Excellency Biravij Suwanpradhes, the Thai Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, the Assistant Permanent Secretary at the MoE of Thailand, and the Director of the SEAMEO Secretariat.

His Excellency is on a two-day visit to this country as part of his series of visits to SEAMEO member countries after Malaysia, the Republic of Singapore, the



Yang Berhormat Minister of Education in a group photo with His Excellency Dr. Teerakiat Jareonsettasin, the Thailand's Education Minister after having a discussion at The Rizqun International Hotel.

Republic of Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

Both sides among others discussed matters of common interest among SEAMEO member countries, including teacher training and common issues in education cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Thailand.

In addition to the courtesy visit, His Excellency and his entourage also visited the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (VOCTECH) which caters to the region's capacity building needs in technical and vocational fields.

The centre is one of 19 SEAMEO centres throughout Southeast Asia where Brunei

Darussalam has a representative on the governing board of each of these regional centres and networks.

Brunei Darussalam is currently involved in several SEAMEO projects including South East Asian Primary Learning Metrics, the SEAMEO Basic Education Standards and the School Network.

While in the country, the Thai delegates were additionally given a briefing on the Brunei National Education System for the 21st Century (SPN-21), technical and vocational education, and teacher training at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

The delegation also toured Kampong Ayer, and visited the Royal Regalia Building.

Iran Embassy celebrates 38th Anniversary of Iran Islamic Revolution

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 10 - The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Brunei Darussalam held a reception to celebrate the 38th Anniversary of Iran Islamic Revolution which took place at the Rizqun International Hotel.

Present as the Guest of Honour representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance.

Also present was His Excellency Abdolhamid Fekri, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the country.

The reception began with the singing of the

National Anthems of Brunei Darussalam and the Islamic Republic of Iran and was followed by the recitation of verses from the Holy Al-Quran.

To mark the occasion, the Minister and His Excellency Abdolhamid Fekri also cut the anniversary cake.

A video about the Islamic Republic of Iran was also showed to entertained the guests.

Both countries have similarities in history, culture and religion and have many common interests which will enhance relations and cooperation in various fields.

Yang Berhormat the Minister at the Prime Ministers' Office and Second Minister of Finance during the cake-cutting ceremony to mark the 38th Anniversary of Iran Islamic Revolution.



Excellent management of Brunei pilgrims praised



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs during the meeting with the the Honorable Dr. Mohammed Salih bin Tahir Bentin, the Minister of Hajj and Umrah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

JEDDAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, February 16 - The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirmed their efforts to improve accommodation, transportation, air passage and other related matters for the 1438 Hijrah Hajj season and beyond.

During the Annual Ministerial Level Hajj Management Meeting of 1438 Hijrah for Brunei Darussalam, the Honourable Dr. Mohammed Salih bin Tahir Bentin, the Minister of Hajj and Umrah leading the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, praises and appreciates the Brunei Darussalam

Hajj Management Department for the efficient management of pilgrims during the previous Hajj season together with the Brunei Darussalam Hajj Package Service Companies and the Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA).

The Brunei Darussalam Government was represented by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs.

Also attending the meeting which took place at the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah

Building in Jeddah were His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Haji Yusoff bin Haji Ismail, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Saudi Arabia; Pengiran Haji Irman bin Pengiran Haji Othman, Acting Consul General of Brunei Darussalam in Jeddah; Haji Abdullah bin Haji Mohamad, Acting Director of Hajj Management Department, and Haji Abd. Nasir bin Haji Bolhassan, representatives of RBA.

Brunei's Minister of Religious Affairs also expressed his appreciation and congratulations to the Government of Saudi Arabia and the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah for the comfort, excellent management and services provided to Brunei pilgrims during the Hajj Season 1437 Hijrah.

Yang Berhormat further welcomed the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah's invitation to hold regular meetings on Hajj management affairs with his ministry to discuss Brunei pilgrims' welfare and best interests at every Hajj season.

While at the kingdom, the Brunei delegation also attended a luncheon hosted by the Honorable Dr. Mohammed Salih bin Tahir Bentin.

Courtesy visit discusses Islamic affairs

CAIRO, ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT, February 20 - The Brunei Darussalam Ministry of Religious Affairs has established close bilateral cooperation for a long time with the University of Al-Azhar As-Sharif.

In this regard, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs expressed gratitude and highest appreciation for the bilateral cooperation to The Honourable Fadhilatus Sheikh Al-Imam Al-Akbar Ustaz Dr. Ahmad At-Tayyib, Sheikh Al-Azhar, the Arab Republic of Egypt during a courtesy visit held at the office of Sheikh Al-Azhar, Dirasah Street in Cairo.

The two sides discussed the affairs of Muslims, faith and preaching, Islamic law as well as issues pertaining to strengthening Muslims' understanding of the Ahli Sunah Waljamaah.

The discussions also focused on efforts to engage University of Al-Azhar As-Sharif experts in the field of *Tarannum* in Al-Quran and *Qiraat* as lecturers at the Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiaah. At the same time,



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs during a courtesy visit discuss bilateral cooperation with the Honorable Fadhilatus Sheikh Al-Imam Al-Akbar Ustaz Dr. Ahmad At-Tayyib, Sheikh Al-Azhar, the Arab Republic of Egypt.

this would optimise expertise in realising Brunei's aspiration to produce more Al-Quran readers of international standards.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs further hopes to invite Imams from University Al-Azhar As-Sharif to lead the congregational Terawih Prayer during the month of Ramadan.

Meanwhile, the Honourable Sheikh Al-Azhar welcomed the presence of the Minister of Religious Affairs and entourage and further expected relations

and cooperation between both sides will be enhanced from time to time.

The Honourable also advised and suggested that Brunei Darussalam establishes an Arabic Language Centre to achieve the excellence in Arabic Education.

Accompanying the Minister were His Excellency Haji Abdul Kahar bin Haji Hussin, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam

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to the Arab Republic of Egypt; Pengiran Haslin bin Pengiran Haji Ali, Acting Principal of Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and Culture Attaché' at the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in

The Minister and members of delegation also had the opportunity to make working visits to two residential buildings for Bruneian students in Egypt, namely, Darussalam and the An-Nur, located at Hayyu Sadis, Madinat Nasr.

At present there are 164 Brunei students studying at University Al-Azhar As-Syrif; 51 studying at Ma'had Qiraat Shoubra; two students at Cairo University, five students in Alexandria University and a student at University of Ain Shams.

Increase production value of fisheries sector



Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism officiating the Ground-Breaking Ceremony for the first Land Based Vertical Aquaculture Farm KR Apollo Sendirian Berhad Project.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 13 - The Ground-Breaking Ceremony for the first Land Based Vertical Aquaculture Farm KR Apollo Sendirian Berhad Project was held at the Freshwater Aquaculture Site, in Sungai Jambu, Kampung Tungku.

Officiating the Ground-Breaking Ceremony were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism and His Excellency Dr. Koh Poh Koon Singapore's Minister of State in the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of National Development, .

The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism in his address at the ceremony said that Brunei Darussalam will continue to increase the production value of Fisheries Sector from more than \$100 million by 2020 despite the declining fish catch.

According to the Minister, the country needs appropriate technology and systems to develop fish farming.

"These requirements are aligned towards improving productivity and increasing competitiveness which will allow the country's products and services to penetrate the export market," the Minister added.



Contract Signing between KR Apollo Sendirian Berhad and the Fisheries Department.

His Excellency Dr. Koh Poh Koon in his remarks, encourages Singaporean companies to enhance cooperation to a new level with friends from Brunei Darussalam in the field of aquaculture.

During the ceremony, a contract agreement was signed between Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Kerma Raja Pengiran Haji Kamarulzaman bin Pengiran Pekerma Setia Diraja Sahibul Bandar Pengiran Haji Ali, Chairman of KR Apollo Sendirian Berhad, together with Eric Ng, the company's Head of Executive, while Haji Abdul Halidi bin Haji Md. Salleh, the Director of Fisheries Department and Mariani binti Haji Sabtu, Deputy Director of Fisheries Department signed on behalf of the Fisheries Department.

The Minister in an interview said that the agreement aimed at working on the preservation of fish or shrimp on a multi-level basis.

"This multi-level maintenance is very good because it can save space and land, thus the production cost will also be lower, but the production will be increasing. If there is a reduction in costs, these entrepreneurs will be more competitive and can compete abroad," explained the Minister.

The Minister further added such an effort is in line with the Government's Strategic Plan to further increase production in the Fisheries Sector by using high technology to increase the country's export market to achieve the desired target.

Meanwhile, His Excellency Dr. Koh Poh Koon during the interview expressed

his happiness to have chosen Brunei Darussalam for his first overseas investment as it was the right time for Singapore and Brunei to explore cooperation.

"At the global level, climate change affects ocean currents and temperatures. This has led to unpredictable and severe weather conditions. This trend affects the global catch of wild fish from the ocean. This happened at a time when the global population is growing and demand is increasing for food, especially seafood. But in all these challenges, there are business opportunities, companies that can take advantage of technology to provide more predictability and sustainable results which will meet the demands of this growing market," His Excellency explained.

"At the bilateral level", said His Excellency, "Singapore is always looking to strengthen food security by importing from various sources and Brunei Darussalam on the other hand he added is planning to diversify its economy and agriculture, is a potential sector that can be profitable."

"One can see the potential for synergy, collaboration and knowledge sharing in this partnership. In this regard, we encourage Singaporean companies, especially for those who are here today, to look overseas to places like Brunei for production and export back to Singapore and other markets. Let us work together to bring partnership agriculture between Singapore and Brunei to a new level," said His Excellency.

Bus Express service expands connectivity



Yang Berhormat the Minister of Communications and the Managing Director of ADBS Sendirian Berhad, cutting the ribbon marking the launching of the Brunei - Sarawak - Pontianak Cross-Border Express Bus.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 9 – The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is currently trying to further expand trade and job opportunities not only within the country but also hopes that entrepreneurs would venture into more overseas markets, especially in neighbouring countries.

This was stated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, Minister of Communications in an interview at the Launching Ceremony of the Brunei - Sarawak - Pontianak Cross-Border Express Bus Service at the Rizqun International Hotel.

The Minister of Communications said that this initiative is one of his ministry's efforts to further expand connectivity and further hoped that Brunei, Kuching, Sarawak and Pontianak will not only expand tourism opportunities, but also include trade, services and others.

The effort connects these country with places in the region, especially the Borneo Island, in the context of the

Yang Berhormat Minister of Communications in a group photo after the launching ceremony.

Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) effort to ensure a seamless journey without any obstacles.

"During the last meeting, several places or areas have been identified to further improve the infrastructure," said the Minister.

The Minister also mentioned the development of the Pan Borneo Highway which is currently developing and the connection between Pontianak - Kuching - Kota Kinabalu which is now completed and is working on expanding connectivity



in the three countries.

In terms of passenger transportation, the Minister hopes that bus operators in the country can pick up passengers from other places to bring tourists to Brunei Darussalam where such matter will always be negotiated with the countries concerned.

The Ministry is now discussing the location of the picking-up of passengers which is quite limited and hopes that the pick-up point will be expanded further and thus will open up market opportunities more widely.

Meanwhile, Awang Haji Ibrahim bin Haji Awang Damit, the Managing Director of ADBS Sendirian Berhad, in his welcoming address said that his company, which has been operating in bus services for a long time, intends to provide bus services to more distant destinations.

With the purchase of four new luxurious and comfortable buses, Managing Director of ADBS Sdn. Bhd. is fully confident that the high quality, modern and better facilities can meet the needs and satisfaction of the passengers.

He further hoped that this Bus Express service would make it easier for tourists to visit Brunei Darussalam more efficiently with cheap fares, especially those from Borneo Island, namely Sarawak and Kalimantan.

Introducing traditional culture and Japanese language

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 17 - To promote Japanese traditional culture and the Japanese language in Brunei Darussalam, the Embassy of Japan in the country in collaboration with the Japan Foundation and the Times Square Shopping Centre, organised the

the "Japanese Language and Culture Week", which will be held for three days starting today.

The event was officially launched by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri

Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusoff, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports as the Guest of Honour and spouse.

Her Excellency Noriko Iki, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of

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Japan to Brunei Darussalam in her address, explained the opportunities to further study in Japan, youth exchange programmes and tourism information.

According to Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, the Japanese Embassy in the country has also invited a group of traditional Japanese drum performers, Hibikiya, who will perform during the three-day event.

"Hibikiya cooperates with other groups that specialise in activities such as Japanese dance, Japanese flower arrangement and Japanese tea ceremony," Her Excellency added.

Her Excellency also explained about the activities that will be carried out at the event including a demonstration of Japanese cuisine by the official resident chef of the Embassy of Japan, Eiji Usuki; Kite Making Workshop, Kendo, Kendama and Yo-yo Shows, quiz as well as Japanese singing and dancing performances.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports as the Guest of Honour and spouse at the launching ceremony.

Exhibitions booth also provided information on studying in Japan including BAJA's Japanese Government Scholarship, SEAYP's (South East Asia and Japan Youth Ship Program) presentation on Nippon Maru, and the JENESYS' Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths.

Meanwhile, the Japanese delegation from

the Miyazaki Region is also introducing the variety of fruits they produce in the region.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports was also given a briefing on the Miyazaki region, a traditional Japanese drum performance, a performance by contemporary Japanese painters, and later viewed the exhibition booths.

Brunei-Kuwait strengthen bilateral relations



Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports with His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State Kuwait to Brunei Darussalam and other officials during the cake-cutting ceremony.

JERUDONG, February 24 - The Embassy of Kuwait in the country held a Dinner Reception in conjunction with the 56th National Day Anniversary of the State of Kuwait which took place at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Present as the Guest of Honour representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major

General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

His Excellency Dr. Fahad Mashary Al-Thafiri, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to Brunei Darussalam in his speech outlined that the brotherly relations between the two countries has witnessed great progress through regular exchanges of official visits.

The visit of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait to Brunei Darussalam in October last year according to His Excellency, has opened a new chapter in bilateral relations and laying a solid foundation for joint cooperation in different areas of common interest.

According to His Excellency, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Amir of Kuwait have witnessed the signing of six agreements in the field of Higher Education and Scientific Studies, Tourism Cooperation, Agreements for the Joint Exemption of Visas for Holders of Diplomatic, Special and Official Passports, Agreement Amendment Protocols for the Avoidance of Double Taxation, the Agreement for Diplomatic Training as well as the establishment of a new 'Joint Commission for Cooperation' headed by foreign ministers.

His Excellency went on to say that it is a clear indication that both countries will further improve understanding and create a mechanism for political and diplomatic consultation between foreign ministers.

Earlier, the ceremony began with the singing of the national anthems of Brunei Darussalam and the State of Kuwait, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony.

Strengthening the potential of Brunei exports



The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) as personal representative to the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism presenting certificates of appreciation to the participant.

RIMBA, February 2 - The Workshop on Facilitating Agri-Business Development in Brunei Darussalam, which was held for four days since January 30, ended with a closing ceremony and the presentation of certificates which took place at Dewan Simpur, Horticulture Business Centre.

Present as personal representative to the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism was Dr. Awang Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT), who also presented certificates of appreciation to 50 participants.

Also present at the ceremony was Her Excellency Nicole Rosenblum, Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

The workshop has been funded by the Australian Government through the Australia - ASEAN Council (AAC) with the aid of an experts team from the University of Western Australia (UWA) and the collaboration of the Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

MPRT aims to increase awareness and understanding as well as cooperation between Australian and ASEAN institutions, including Brunei Darussalam.

Throughout the workshop, participants had the opportunity to explore ways to strengthen the potential of Brunei's export and increase the contribution of the Agri-Business Sector to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with the help from group of experts from UWA consisting of Professor Peter Batt; Dr. Nazrul Islam; and Dr. Amen Muga.

Workshop sessions include how to exploit the concept of network value, what business capital can have the best impact in Brunei, and how to monitor and evaluate the performance of the network value.

Dr. Awang Abdul Manaf Haji Metussin also conveyed his highest appreciation for the Australian Government's support in developing the local Agri-Business Sector through such workshop which was also as a follow-up to the first workshop held in April last year.

Thai delegation visits Royal Regalia Building



Thailand's Minister of Education, His Excellency Dr. Teerakiat Jareonsettasin as President of the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization Council (SEAMEO Council) (fifth from left) and members of delegation in a group photo while visiting the Royal Regalia Building.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 9 - His Excellency Dr. Teerakiat Jareonsettasin, Thailand's Minister of Education as President of the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization

Council (SEAMEO Council) and his delegation continued their working visit by visiting the Royal Regalia Building.

Upon arrival, His Excellency and delegation

was welcomed by Datin Paduka Dr. Hajah Norlila binti Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MYCS); Hajah Fatimah binti Haji Aji, Acting Director of Museums; senior officers of MYCS and the Department of Museums.

During the visit, His Excellency and his entourage were given an introductory briefing about the building and later took a closer look at the galleries before signing a visitor's book.

The building was inaugurated on September 30, 1992 by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

It consists of four galleries that showcase momentous occasions of the monarchy namely the Royal Exhibition, the Silver Jubilee Exhibition, the Brunei Darussalam History and Constitutional Development and the Royal Regalia Exhibition (Coronation, 1968).