



برونئي دارالسلام

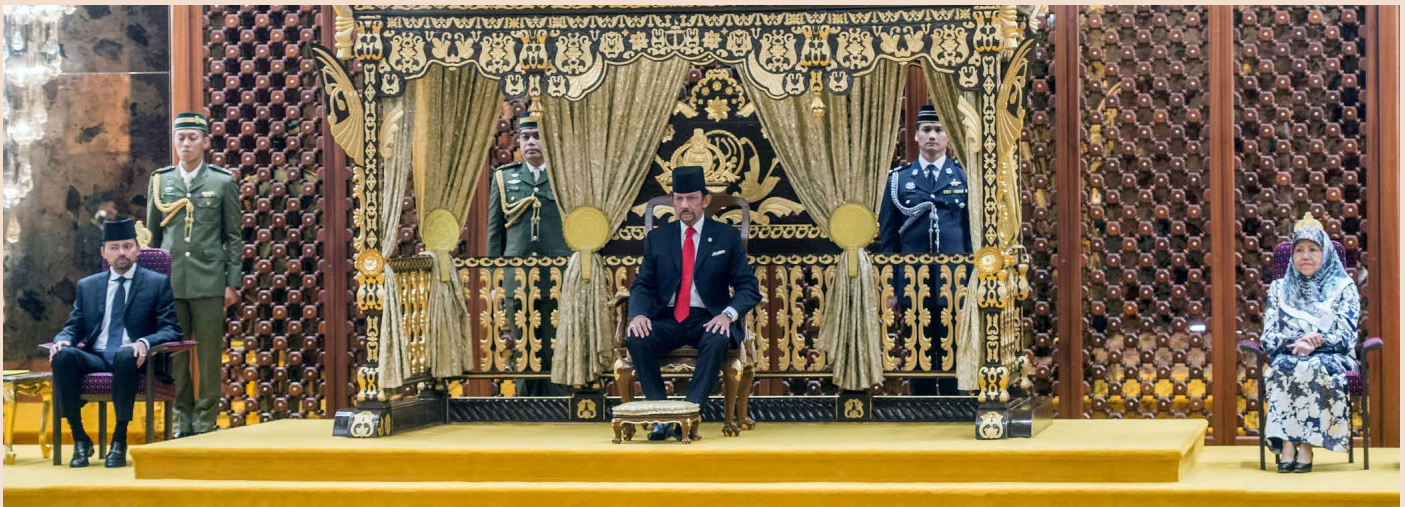
Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
Prime Minister's Office

FEBRUARY, 2018
VOLUME 33 ISSUE 02

Swearing-In Ceremony for New Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers



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 at the Swearing-In Ceremony for new Cabinet. Also in attendance during the swearing-in 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 Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 1 – The swearing-in ceremony for Brunei Darussalam's new Cabinet to perform their national duties and responsibilities for a period of five years was held at Istana Nurul Iman.

The ceremony was held in the presence of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum

Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. The letters of appointment was read by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentara Istiadat Diraja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin bin Pengiran Paduka Tuan Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, the Grand Chamberlain.

Continue on page 5

Strengthening of 'Maqasid Syari'ah' as a catalyst for the success of the country



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the 34th National Day of Brunei Darussalam Celebration 2018.

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) said that as a progressive Islamic country, the strengthening of 'Maqasid Syari'ah' (objectives of Islamic law) is prerequisite to the nation's success.

This consolidation, he said, is important as a catalyst towards ensuring the country continues to enjoy prosperity and security.

"This year, we still keep the theme: 'Accomplishing the National Vision'. This shows how serious we are in succeeding that vision".

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered the *titah* in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 34th National Day Celebration 2018.

Continue on page 8



1. Swearing-In Ceremony for New Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers



8. 34th National Day Celebration Grand Assembly



11. His Majesty joins Semangat Kebangsaan (National Spirit) Cycling Recreation



12. His Majesty officiates the First International Symposium on Ethnobotany and launches UBD Botanical Research Centre



14. House Key Presentation Ceremony to 601 recipients



16. Opening of the Final of the National Musabaqah Al-Quran for Adults 1439 Hijrah / 2018 Masihi



18. Her Royal Highness attends Swimming Championship



19. MoU seal towards the development of national football



22. Commander of the United States Pacific Command pays courtesy calls



24. Japanese Language and Cultural Week promotes learning opportunities



FEBRUARY 2018 - VOLUME 33 ISSUE 02

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

is published monthly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For free subscription (excluding postage) please write to the Distribution Unit, Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office, Old Airport, Berakas BB 3510, Brunei Darussalam.

EMAIL US AT: info.dept@information.gov.bn

EDITORIAL Advisory Board:

Mawardi Haji Mohammad

(mawardi.mohammad@information.gov.bn)

Hajah Noorashidah Haji Aliomar

(noorashidah.aliomar@information.gov.bn)

Editor:

Saadiatul Nur Aqilah Haji Jaman

(aqilah.jaman@information.gov.bn)

Sub-Editor:

Hajah Zaiantit binti Haji Noorkhan

(zaiantit.noorkhan@information.gov.bn)

Translation

Translation Unit

Layouster:

Amdelah bin Haji Tujoh

(amdelah.tujoh@information.gov.bn)

Proofreader:

Azimatul Azimah binti Siti Rahmat

(azimah.rahmat@information.gov.bn)

Photographs

Photography Unit of Department of Information

General inquiries

Tel: (673) 2383 400/ext English Publications

Fax: (673) 2382 012

Information Department

www.information.gov.bn

Information Gallery

www.infofoto.gov.bn

Follow us



Download InfoDeptBN



Instagram - @infodept.bn



Twitter - @Infodept_bn



Facebook - Jabatan Penerangan
Jabatan Perdana Menteri
Brunei Darussalam

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, Minister of Defence, and the Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), consented to receive in audience at Istana Nurul Iman:



His Excellency Admiral Harry Binkley Harris Junior, Commander of the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM) on February 21.



General Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan, Chief of Defence Forces, Royal Thai Armed Forces on February 27.

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 the Istana Nurul Iman:



Mrs. Jiraporn Srisuwan, the wife of Chief of Defence Forces, Royal Thai Armed Forces on February 27.



Her Excellency Caterina Ventura, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam on February 27.



Pengiran Datin Nuur 'Izzah Nabilah binti Pengiran Haji Ahmad Mahdi Al-Sufri, spouse of the former Commander of the RBAF along with Datin Hajah Rasidah binti Haji Brahim, spouse of the newly-appointed Commander of the RBAF on February 27.

His Royal Highness receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and the General of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezaan:



Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih bin Abdullah, the outgoing Commander of the RBAF and, Major General Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, the newly appointed Commander of the RBAF on February 1.



His Excellency Hisham bin Abdul Wahab bin Abdullah Zaraq, the outgoing Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam on February 5.



His Excellency Abdolhamid Fekri, the outgoing Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam on February



His Excellency Amphay Kindavong, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Brunei Darussalam on February 20.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Government and the People of The Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of Iran's National Day on February 10.
- His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait as well as the Government and people of the State of Kuwait on the occasion of Kuwait's National Day on February 25.

His Majesty sends message of condolences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send a message of condolences to His Excellency Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation following the recent plane crash at Ramensky district, Moscow region on February 12.

From front page

Swearing-In Ceremony for New Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers (continued)

First to be sworn-in was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah as the Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

Next to be sworn-in was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Manteri Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Ibrahim as His Majesty's Special Advisor and Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

Followed by the swearing-in of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers:

1. Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong as the Minister of Home Affairs.
2. Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman as the Minister of Religious Affairs.
3. Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong as the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.
4. Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusof as the Second Minister of Defence.
5. Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Doctor Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Jaafar as the Minister of Health.
6. Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud as the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.
7. Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Doctor Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah as the Second Minister of Finance.
8. Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof as the Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
9. Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar as the Minister of Development.
10. Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Doctor Awang Haji Mat Suny bin Haji Mohd. Hussein as the Minister of Energy and Industry.
11. Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman as the Minister of Education.
12. Yang Berhormat Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof as the Minister of Communications.
13. Yang Berhormat Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin as the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.
14. The ceremony also proceeded with the swearing-in of five new Deputy Ministers preceded by Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar as the Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs.
15. Followed by Yang Mulia Datin Dayang Hajah Elinda binti C.A. Mohamed as the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.
16. Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman as the Deputy Minister of Finance.
17. Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Doctor Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Mohd Salleh as the Deputy Minister of Education.
18. Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw as the Deputy Minister of Energy and Industry.

Also present at the swearing-in ceremony was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji

Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Also in attendance were Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti and Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Hayati binti Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohammad Salleh, the Attorney General.

To bless the ceremony, a *Doa Selamat* was read by the State Mufti.





From front page

Strengthening of ‘Maqasid Syari’ah’ as a catalyst for the success of the country (continued)

His Majesty in this regard said that the people should also play a role in advancing themselves and further enhancing efforts to generate economy and development. Government agencies must also be efficient and prudent in managing the country’s resources, and human resource development should always be given attention to.

“We need the commitment and efforts of all parties, including the private sector, to ensure that all plans run smoothly to achieve its target”, His Majesty added.

His Majesty also said in the *titah* said that we should be grateful that Allah the Almighty has bestowed upon us peace and prosperity.

Therefore, His Majesty asserted in all circumstances, we must endeavor, while praying to Allah to maintain this blessing.

“We should never stray from Him, as these blessings come and go at His will”, His Majesty said.

“We can merely plan, while Allah is the one who fulfills it, so

when we plan, plan what is good or best, and do not plan badly or plan things that are disliked by Allah. Here is where many people are mistaken and do not understand. They only plan what they want or what is good for them, regardless of Allah. Sooner or later, these plans are filled with problems and are afflicted with flaws, because they are not blessed”, His Majesty said.

His Majesty also touched on the youth’s role to be daring in leading the country’s development.

In order to perceive the country to go further as a developed country, the young generation of the country need to be taken into account in achieving the sacred goal of the independent nation.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifuddin Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said the country needs the young generation to be daring to lead the country’s development and need to take the opportunity to increase their individual capabilities through programs offered locally or abroad.

34th National Day Celebration Grand Assembly



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifuddin Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the 34th National Day of Brunei Darussalam Anniversary Celebration at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar ‘Ali Saifuddin.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 24 – Brunei Darussalam once again made history by celebrating its 34th National Day, a blessing for all the people and the residents to feel the excitement and love towards the nation, the sovereign, the race and the religion based on the Islamic Malay Monarchy and as a *Zikir* nation.

The spirit continues to deepen with the arrival of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifuddin Sa’adul Khairi

Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar ‘Ali Saifuddin to join the people and residents of the country for the General Assembly Ceremony in conjunction with the 34th National Day Anniversary Celebration of Brunei Darussalam.

Also present were His Majesty’s sons and brothers , His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office; His Royal

Continue on page 9

From front page

34th National Day Celebration Grand Assembly (continued)

Highness Prince ‘Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was welcomed by the members of the Executive Committee, the Yang Di-Pertua Adat Istiadat Negara, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar; Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin as the Chairman of the celebration’s Executive Committee for the 34th National Day Celebration.

Also greeting the arrival of His Majesty and the Royal Family members were the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), Yang Mulia Datin Dayang Hajah Elinda binti C.A. Mohamed; the Deputy Minister of Education, Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Doctor Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Mohd. Salleh; Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar; Commissioner of Police, Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Mohd. Jammy bin Haji Muhd. Shah Al-Islam and Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), Major General Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud.

The Grand Assembly began with a march-past in front of the Royal Dais, participated by more than 23 thousand participants representing 139 groups, led by a team of National Flag Bearers, Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Royal Brunei Police Force, Uniformed personnel, National Service Programme, people with special needs, excellent achievers, government ministries and departments, district representatives and the private sector.

Also joining the march past parade were Her Royal Highness Princess ‘Azemah Ni’matul Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The National Day performance was coloured with the theme “Accomplishing the National Vision” by more than seven thousand participants representing private sectors and national development agencies including youth from secondary schools, colleges and institutions of higher learning.

The splendid performance showcased the whole society in appreciating their role in achieving Brunei Vision 2035.

In achieving National Vision, each national development agencies is responsible and accountable for ensuring that all activities are geared towards achieving the Brunei Vision 2035.



His Majesty inspecting the Guard of Honour mounted by personnel of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Royal Brunei Police Force.

Serve the country diligently and with dedication

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 7 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a *titah* (royal speech) that the Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Permanent Secretaries are the forefront of the mandate entrusted to fill independence so that our independence is truly meaningful.

His Majesty explained that the way to fill the independence is with hard work, diligence and dedication.

His Majesty said further that "we are a sovereign and an independent nation and we are required to think and act as sovereign and an independent nation as well. By just being proud, the meaning of independence will not suffice. It will be more meaningful when we are good at fulfilling it. Where to fulfill that independence and by whom? Certainly by ourselves, of course", His Majesty said.

"Therefore, do not turn away from duty, work for the country and not for yourself. Anyone who deals with the economy, for example, should build the economy. Look for ways to grow, not hinder or limit but make sure it is growing. We must find a way for it to flourish," stated His Majesty in his *titah* at the Cabinet Ministers Special Meeting held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Earlier, His Majesty called for the Cabinet and its officials to fulfill their responsibilities better without causing problems and jeopardizing the work of government.

The ministers and officials authorized by His Majesty should focus on beneficial matter instead of creating problems for personal interests or interests of some.

"I know many issues that have emerged, which are meant to attract attention or for publicity with the intention



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

to show that the people involved are good at carrying out their tasks but in fact do not bring any benefit and the government is forced to suffer losses when a good plan is delayed or disrupted."

"Some have been charged with wanting the plans to be cancelled in order to please the needs of others or international parties", His Majesty said.

His Majesty said, we are being intimidated by the onslaught of globalisation or emphasising reasons imported elsewhere that is not relevant to the interests and needs of the state.

Hence, as a leader, His Majesty said, the tendency to use imported reasons reflects ineptitude or lack of ideas.

Therefore, he said, we cannot expect a great deal from leaders such as these, we should remember that all things learned from outside is not necessarily good, including science, culture, thoughts and opinions, should not taken wholly just because they are in use elsewhere.

"The same goes for concept and policy. Do not always be fascinated by others, but first look at who we are, identify what we really need. This is a better and wise way to approach and not by taking and using anything that is seen or heard from a distance without self-reflection", His Majesty stressed.

Earlier, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed his gratitude for being able to convey the message after the reshuffling of the Council of Cabinet Ministers recently.

His Majesty also expressed his appreciation and thanks to those who are no longer appointed for the service they have given.

In the meantime, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also congratulated those who still hold their post and the newly appointed. Hopefully with each appointment they will be able to bring bigger and positive changes in the government.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers at the Cabinet Ministers Special Meeting.

His Majesty joins Semangat Kebangsaan (National Spirit) Cycling Recreation



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joining the Semangat Kebangsaan Cycling Recreation. Also present were the sons and the brother of 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 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 25 - 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 join the Semangat Kebangsaan (National Spirit) Cycling Recreation, reflecting that there are no barriers in the relationship between the sovereign and the people.

Despite the heavy downpour, the ambience of the capital enlivened with thousands of people of all walks of life in the country who participated in the event to celebrate the 34th National Day of Brunei Darussalam this year.

The event combined aspects of a healthy and recreational lifestyle for the sake of national unity through the appreciation of sports culture and the overall community involvement that leads to the creation of healthy citizens, which is important towards achieving the Brunei Vision 2035. This is in line with the theme of the National Day Celebration 2018, which is 'Accomplishing the National Vision'.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to join the Semangat Kebangsaan Cycling Recreation which began and ended at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, in the capital.

Also present were the sons and the brother of 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 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

The arrival of His Majesty and the Royal Family members was greeted by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin; Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong and the Minister of Health, Yang Behormat Dato Paduka Doctor Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Jaafar.

Upon arrival, His Majesty consented to press the launch button followed by the release of a giant sized balloon with a banner and numerous regular sized balloons which were released by 30 participants of the 13th Youth-Love the Nation Programme (PBCTA).

His Majesty then led the Cycling Recreation around Bandar Seri Begawan as far as 11.5 kilometers and across the main streets, including Jalan Pretty; Jalan Elizabeth 2; Jalan Masjid Omar 'Ali Saifuddien; Jalan Kianggeh; Jalan Sekolah; Jalan Kumbang Pasang; Jalan Gadong; Jalan Perdana Menteri; Jalan Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha and concluded at the park.

After the Cycling Recreation event, His Majesty then witnessed a parade of 34 cyclists from all districts who participated in the 34km event, departing from 6.45am followed by 34 child cyclists as well as a performance by 374 trainees of the National Service Programme (PKBN).



His Majesty riding a four-wheel bicycle at the Bandarku Ceria programme.

From page 11

His Majesty joins Semangat Kebangsaan (National Spirit) Cycling Recreation (continued)

At the ceremony, His Majesty consented to receive a *pesambah* (gift) presented by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan.

Besides cycling, His Majesty and the Royal Family members also witnessed more closely the excitement of the Bandarku Ceria programme which was held in the vicinity of the park with a various activities provided by relevant agencies, such as the Military Cross Fit Training, Tai Chi Performance, Football Fun Fair and meet and greet sessions with Brunei DPMM FC players, Football Clinic, Uniform Cadet Band, Recycling Art Activities, Silat Performances and Silat Clinic, Origami Craft Presentation, Bike

Clinic and the National Road Safety Council (MKKJR), Selling of Handicraft Special Education and so on.

The Semangat Kebangsaan Cycling Recreation was jointly organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Ministry of Health aside from the participation of other Ministries and the Brunei Darussalam Cycling Association.

Its success reflects the effectiveness and efficiency of the country's approach which involves all levels of society including non-governmental organisations and NGOs, especially in promoting national development programmes.

His Majesty officiates the First International Symposium on Ethnobotany and launches UBD Botanical Research Centre

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 consented to attend and officiate the First International Symposium on 'Ethnobotany in the Quran and Hadith - An Exploration' held at the Chancellor Hall, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

The symposium is jointly organised by the UBD's Faculty of Science, the Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research (IBER), and Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Centre for Islamic Studies (SOASCIS).

Upon arrival, His Majesty who is also the Chancellor of UBD was greeted by the Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamzah bin Sulaiman, the Minister of Education, as



His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam signing a plaque at UBD Simpuri Café BSB, a UBD-owned cafe that operates in the campus premises.

Continue on page 13



His Majesty during the visit to the UBD Botanical Research Centre.

From page 12

His Majesty officiates the First International Symposium on Ethnobotany and launches UBD Botanical Research Centre (continued)

the Chairman of the UBD Council; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti and, Datin Doctor Dayang Hajah Anita Binurul Zahrina binti Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, the Vice Chancellor of UBD.

The ceremony began with the recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah* and a *Doa Selamat* led by the State Mufti.

The Vice Chancellor of UBD in her welcoming speech, among others, highlighted that Brunei is blessed with rich tropical bio-diversity and UBD has identified herbal research and complementary medicine as a key focus for research and development.

Datin Doctor Dayang Hajah Anita Binurul Zahrina hopes that the symposium will be the initial platform for a larger and more diverse group of stakeholder interested in exploring the uses of plants in the Al-Quran and Hadith which will also share new discoveries from various Islamic and scientific perspectives to the public.

His Majesty consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech) of the inauguration ceremony.

His Majesty also consented to receive *pesambah* (gift); a book titled 'Medicinal Plants of UBD Botanical Research Centre'.

The ceremony then continued with a keynote from the State Mufti which slightly talked about the benefits of food, green plants or *ulam-ulaman*.

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 then consented to visit the UBD Botanical Research Centre.

His Majesty also consented to sign a plaque to complete the launch of the UBD Botanical Research Centre.

Apart from collecting, reproducing and preserving various flora and plant species, the establishment of the UBD Botanical Research Centre also conducts translational research.

The centre is located next to the



His Majesty taking a closer look at one of the plants at the research centre.



His Majesty being briefed on the plants and trees that grows in an estimated area of five acres of tropical heath forest known *kerangas*.

university's female hostel and has identified about 200 herbal plants and 100 tree species growing in the estimated five acres of tropical heath forest known *kerangas*.

From the UBD Botanical Research Centre, His Majesty consented to visit the UBD Simpuri Cafe BSB, a UBD-owned cafe that operates in the campus premises.

The cafe offers healthy and natural foods incorporating herbal recipes grown from the UBD Botanical Research Centre. The cafe also contributes as a training ground for students of IBTE's School of

Hospitality, similar to Simpuri restaurant in Da-Nang, Vietnam, which was officiated by His Majesty in November last year.

The symposium continued in the afternoon with plenary sessions held at Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatulk Bolkiah Institute of Health Science, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (PAPRSB IHS).

The main objective of the symposium was to bring together botanists from all over the world to share and exchange ideas as well as to present researches on ethnobotanical topics relevant to the Al-Quran and Hadith.

House Key Presentation Ceremony to 601 recipients

TUTONG, February 20 - 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 present house keys to 601 recipients under the National Housing Programme (RPN) for Tutong and Belait District.

The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Tutong Sixth Form Centre (PTET) Hall, Kampung Bukit Beruang, Mukim Telisai was greeted by the Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar; the Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong and Acting Tutong District Officer, Awang Haji Adnan bin Haji Adam.

The ceremony began with the recital of *Surah Al-Fatihah* led by Tutong District Syari'ah Subordinate Court Judge, Pengiran Haji Shahril Azman bin Pengiran Haji Metusin.

Of the total number of recipients, 301 recipients received cluster type houses, while 53 recipients received terrace houses under the Bukit Beruang National Housing Scheme in Tutong District and 247 recipients received terrace type houses under Lumut and Lorong Tengah Seria National Housing Scheme in Belait District.

His Majesty then consented to visit the PTET, where the central building was first used in January 2012, with 325 students and 63 teachers.

PTET students comprised of those living in Mukim Telisai, Mukim Pekan Tutong, Mukim Tanjong Maya, Mukim Kiudang, Mukim Keriam, Mukim Ukong, Mukim Lamunin and Mukim Rambai area.

From PTET, His Majesty also consented to visit the house of Legislative Council member, Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Ramli bin Haji Lahit, who is also the Penghulu of Mukim Telisai.

In an area of 79.5 square kilometres with a population of over 10 thousand people, Kampung Bukit Beruang is recorded to have the largest population, which includes the residents of RPN Bukit Beruang.

His Majesty then visited the Tumpuan Telisai Primary School, Tutong, Cluster 5, which is an educational institution in the mukim (sub-district).



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 a house key to a recipient under the National Housing Programme for Tutong and Belait District.

The school began operating in January 1940 with a total of 40 students at the time and at present the school has about 213 students from Pre-school to Year 6.

His Majesty continued his visit to the soil erosion area near the beach in Kampung Danau, Tutong and consented to visit the RPN Bukit Beruang recipients' houses.

With an area of 120 square metres, each unit of cluster house in RPN Bukit Beruang has 3 bedroom, a living room, a bathroom and a kitchen.

The area of each terrace unit is 106

square metres, where this unit consists of 3 bedrooms, a living room, a bathroom and a kitchen.

The RPN Bukit Beruang area has a total of 530 units of detached type houses; 500 units of twin type houses, 368 cluster type houses and 1,388 units of terrace type houses with a total area of 495 hectares.

The residential area is a comprehensive housing development concept with land space for future public amenities such as schools, mosques, commercial facilities,

Continue on page 15



His Majesty interacting with one of the students at Tutong Sixth Form Centre Library, Kampung Bukit Beruang, Mukim Telisai.

From page 14

House Key Presentation Ceremony to 601 recipients (continued)

community centres, parks and recreational area as well as playgrounds.

His Majesty then consented to visit the Golden Corporation Sendirian Berhad located at Kampung Serambangun Industrial Site, which controls the processing of shrimp and seafood in the country. It also invests in the use of fishing vessels equipped with the latest technology and capable of accessing the inland deep-water zone that is unable to be accessed by local fishermen.

The company is continually growing and penetrating local and overseas markets, while promoting the country's name by exporting products abroad and ensuring adequate result and food security in the country.



His Majesty reviewing products manufactured by Golden Corporation Sdn. Bhd. (in collaboration with Semaun Marine Resources Sdn. Bhd) at Kampung Serambangun Industrial Site.

Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony in conjunction with the 34th 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 and members of the Royal Family during the *Kesyukuran* Ceremony.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 22 - Citizens and residents of this beloved country, are definitely grateful for the security and peace achieved under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and thus are able to celebrate the 34th National Day of Brunei Darussalam.

A Mass Fardhu Maghrib and Isyak prayers, and the reading of *Surah Yassin* and *Doa Kesyukuran* in conjunction with the country's 34th National Day celebration ceremony took place at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque in the capital.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to join the congregation.

Also present 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, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel, and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Upon arrival, His Majesty and the Royal Family members were greeted by the the Chief of Adat Istiadat Negara, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar; the Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman; and the

Continue on page 16

From page 15

Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony in conjunction with the 34th National Day (continued)

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin as the Chairman of the 34th National Day Celebration's Executive Committee, year of 1439 Hijrah / 2018 Masihi; the State Mufti, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned; as well as the Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar.

The call for Maghrib prayer was carried out by Officer at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque, Mudim Awang Haji Metassin bin Haji Metussin.

The mass Fardhu Maghrib Prayer was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal, followed by a Mass Sunat Hajat prayer led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, who also led the reading of *Surah Yaasin*.

The *Doa Kesyukuran* was read by the State Mufti, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned.

The call for Isyak prayer was carried out by Officer at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque, Mudim Awang Haji Amran

bin Haji Mohd Salleh followed by a mass Fardhu Isyak prayer led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Setia Raja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Suhaili bin Haji Mohiddin.

Before leaving the ceremony, His Majesty and the Royal Family members received a *junjung ziarah* from the congregants present.

The Kesyukuran Ceremony was also held at all mosques, surau and religious halls across the country. The ceremony aimed to extend gratitude to the overflowing blessings, security and peace enjoyed by the country as well as for the well-being of the people of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty names new grandson

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 26 – By command of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Office of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam announced that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with great pleasure has named His Majesty's grandson and the son of Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini bin Pengiran Doctor Haji Mohd Yakub as Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak 'Abdul Hakeem bin Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini.



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak 'Abdul Hakeem Bin Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini, the grandson of Their Majesties' and the son of Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini bin Pengiran Doctor Haji Mohd Yakub.

His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha as well as other members of the Royal Family sincerely thanked all those who were involved during the birth and who had conveyed their messages of congratulations and greetings on the birth of Their Majesties' grandson who was safely born on Monday, the 3rd of Jamadilakhir, 1439 corresponding to 19th of February, 2018 at 8.52am.

Opening of the Final of the National Musabaqah Al-Quran for Adults 1439 Hijrah / 2018 Masihi

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 27 - 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 in a *sabda* (royal speech) said, by upholding the Al-Quran and making it as a guide in our lives, we will be able to produce true Muslim individuals, families, communities and a nation obedient and loyal to Allah.

"Here, I am delighted to know that the Ministry of Religious Affairs through Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Quran Institute has begun the teaching of reading the Al-Quran with rhythm or *tarannum*", said His Royal Highness at the Opening of the Final of the National Musabaqah Al-Quran for Adults 1439 Hijrah/2018 Masihi, that took place at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Centre, Berakas.

Along with that, the skills and expertise in tarannum, His Royal Highness said, will be more complete, effective and even more favorable if the qari and qariah understands the language of the Al-Quran, which is Arabic.

Speaking of understanding of the Al-Quran, His Royal Highness has mentioned in the previous Musabaqah that the Al-Quran is interpreted in many languages, can easily be obtained and is accessible in various forms, whether in print or digital, and we should carefully choose translations and interpretations by referring to the right sources based on the teachings of Ahli Sunnah Waljamaah.

The arrival of His Royal Highness at the International Convention Centre was greeted by the Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang

Continue on page 17

From page 15

Opening of the Final of the National Musabaqah Al-Quran for Adults 1439 Hijrah/2018 Masihi (continued)

Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman as the Chairman of the Major Islamic Events Celebration Executive Committee and Chairman of the National Musabaqah Al-Quran for Adults 1439 Hijrah/2018 Executive Committee; as well as other committee members.

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Earlier, His Royal Highness also pointed out that the people and citizens in this country should be grateful to enjoy life in a peaceful environment to enable them to do their religious deeds properly and even to convene religious ceremonies.

Touching on the role of the mosques, through effective planning and management, His Royal Highness believes they are able to create pious and knowledgeable individuals.

Therefore, the involvement of the people and villagers in glorifying mosques is very important. Attending prayers at the mosques, attending the various programmes including deepening knowledge in Al-Quran and other religious activities that bring benefits and awareness on the importance of giving endowments are advocated by Islam as investments for the Hereafter.

His Royal Highness added that all these are very beneficial for development and the well-being of the *Ummah* as well as a knowledgeable society.

The event was then followed by a welcoming speech from Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs, which among others, said that the new format in age requirements in which participants are

Afternoon Tea Reception in conjunction with His Royal Highness' 44th Birthday celebration with RBAF

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 17 - His Royal Highness Prince General 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 General of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) consented to attend an Afternoon Tea Reception in conjunction with His Royal Highness' 44th Birthday Anniversary presented by the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, RBAF at the Bolkiah Garrison Officer's Mess.

Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.



His Royal Highness Prince General 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 General of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) during the cake cutting ceremony presented by the RBAF officers.



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 delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the National Musabaqah Al-Quran for Adults 1439 Hijrah/2018 Masihi.

not younger than 18 years old and not older than 40 years old, have successfully featured young and talented participants. "With today's technological facilities, assisted by Al-Quran programmes on social media, the efforts of His Majesty's government has boosted interest among teens to be involved in the field Al-Quran tarannum. Indeed, these factors are also among those that expedites the enhancement of the youth's skills who are interested and dedicated in honing their talents", Yang Berhormat added.

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 delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the National Musabaqah Al-Quran for Adults 1439 Hijrah/2018 Masihi.

This year's Musabaqah Al-Quran for Adults 1439 Hijrah/2018 Masihi carries the theme 'Al-Quran the Source of Just Leadership'.

The arrival of His Royal Highness at the Bolkiah Garrison Officers' Mess was welcomed by the Second Minister of Defence, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof and the Commander of the RBAF, Major General Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud.

At the function, His Royal Highness received the *junjung ziarah* and got-together with officers and staff of the RBAF as well as the newly commissioned officers who received awards of excellence from the 16th Intake of the RBAF Officer Cadet School.

His Royal Highness was then presented a photo album entitled 'Sejambak Ristaan XI' comprising a collection of commemorative photos on His Royal Highness' visit to the Ministry of Defence and the RBAF.

At the event, His Royal Highness was then presented with a birthday cake and received a *pesambah* (gift) from the officers of RBAF.

To bless the ceremony, a *Doa Kesyukuran* was read by Head of RBAF Religious Department, Royal Brunei Navy, Commander Haji Ainolnizam bin Haji Ibrahim.

Prior to departure, His Royal Highness consented to sign the *Lembaran Kenangan* (visit parchment) and received the *junjung ziarah* from officers and staff present at the event.

RBPF holds Afternoon Tea Reception in conjunction with His Royal Highness 44th Birthday

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 18 - His Royal Highness Deputy Inspector General of Police 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 attend Afternoon Tea Reception in conjunction with the 44th birthday of His Royal Highness hosted by the Royal Brunei Police Force.

The ceremony was held at the Banquet Hall, Police Officers Mess of the Royal Brunei Police Force, Gadong.

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, who is also the Commandant of Women Police and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was greeted by the Commissioner of Police, Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Mohd. Jammy bin Haji Muhd. Shah Al-Islam and the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohammad Irwan bin Haji Hambali.

At the event, His Royal Highness signed the *Lembaran Kenangan Keberangkatan* and consented to join a group photo session.



His Royal Highness and the royal family consented to proceed to the Banquet Hall for the Afternoon Tea Reception.

The celebration of His Royal Highness's birthday was also enlivened with a cake cutting event accompanied by a birthday singing performance by the choir of the Royal Brunei Police Force Officers.

His Royal Highness then received a *pesambah* (gift) presented by the Commissioner of Police.

His Royal Highness and the Royal Family members then proceeded to the Banquet Hall for the Afternoon Tea Reception.

Before leaving the ceremony, His Royal Highness received a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from the Royal Brunei Police Force Officers.

Also present at the ceremony were the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Mulia Datin Dayang Hajah Elinda binti C.A Mohamed and the Permanent Secretary for Security and Enforcement at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Mulia Retired Lieutenant Colonel Pengiran Haji Muhammad Sazali bin Pengiran Haji Yakob.

Her Royal Highness attends Swimming Championship

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 4 - Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman consented to attend the 5th Brunei 100m Sprint Championship held at the National Swimming Pool, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

Among the participants of the championship were the children of 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; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah.

Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim represented International School of Brunei (ISB) by joining three categories, the 100 metre freestyle, 100 metre breast stroke and 100 metre backstroke.

Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim won the 100 Meter Freestyle Category with 12.4 minutes while YTM Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah has broken the national record in the Freestyle Category with a time of 2.11.14.

YTM Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah received a medal presented by the Brunei Amateur Swimming Honorary Secretary, Mr. Ang Beng Siong.

The championship was participated by over 338 swimmers



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman with Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah at the 5th Brunei 100m Sprint Championship.

from seven teams representing swimming pool club namely ISB, Penaga Stingrays, Jerudong Swimming Club, Brunei Speed Swimming Club, Dolphin Swimming Club, Royal Brunei Recreation Club and Tutong Swimming Training Scheme.

The tournament was organised by the Brunei Amateur Swimming Association with the support of the Department of Youth and Sports.

MoU seal towards the development of national football



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) witnessing the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between NFABD and the Sports School, Ministry of Education.

BERAKAS, February 5 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD) graced a Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony between NFABD and the Sports School, Ministry of Education.

The arrival of His Royal Highness at NFABD House was greeted by the Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamzah bin Sulaiman; Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin and Acting Deputy President of NFABD, Haji Madli bin Haji Mohd. Yussof.

The ceremony began with the recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah* and *Doa Selamat* led by the Syar'ie Chief Judge, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.

Awang Roslin bin Suhailee, Secretary General of NFABD, in his welcoming speech, stated there will be 14 students involved in the football development programmes arranged by NFABD as a start and the joint venture searching for students with potential will continue.

The NFABD also expressed appreciation towards the Sports School for their initiative and efforts in involving their students to the programme.

The NFABD will also share services such as technical services, expertise, professional development and available resources apart from providing training schedules and competitions for participation.

The MoU Signing Ceremony between NFABD and Sports School, Ministry of Education was witnessed by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

Signing on behalf of NFABD was Acting Deputy President of NFABD, Haji Madli bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, while signing on behalf of the Sports School was the Principal, Matthew Eric Letham.

With the signing of the MoU, it is hoped that this cooperation and collaboration will produce more football players with regular trainings, talented, as well as knowledgeable and potentially becoming a quality national player in the future.

Sports Excellence Incentive Scheme Awards Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 8 - In recognition and appreciation to those who brought honour and glory to the country, a total of 66 athletes, 20 coaches and assistant coaches, and 10 National Sports Associations received Victory Rewards under the Sports Excellence Incentive Scheme.

Gracing the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Bolkiah National Sports Complex Indoor Stadium was greeted by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin.

The event began with the recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah* led by Religious Officer at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (KKBS), Awang Haji Nuurmatin bin Haji Abu Bakar followed by a welcoming speech by Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Paduka Doctor Hajah Norlila binti Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil.

The arrival of the Royal Family members at the Hassanal

Continue on page 20



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah at the Victory Rewards ceremony for the Sports Excellence Incentive Scheme.

From page 19

Sports Excellence Incentive Scheme Awards Ceremony (continued)

At the ceremony, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar were pleased to receive the Victory Reward presented by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar was also pleased to receive SPKS Victory Rewards for polo sport at the event.

The recipients of the Victory Rewards comprised of Polo, Wushu, Pencak Silat, Lawn Bowling, Netball, Sepak Takraw, Karate, Athletics, Tenpin Bowling, Cycling and Cue Sports who won medals at the 29th Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) which was held from the 19th to the 30th of August 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; the 9th ASEAN Para Games from the 17th to the 23rd of September 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; the 6th International Wushu Championship Pars Cup from the 14th to the 17th of April 2017 in Semnan, Iran; the 79th Singapore Open Track & Field from the 27th to the 28th of April 2017; the 8th Golden Break 9-Ball Championship 2017 in Kuala Lumpur from the 10th to the 15th of July 2017; and the 9th Asian Junior Wushu Championship from the 14th to the 21st of September 2017 in Gumi, South Korea.

The event held aimed at encouraging athletes in achieving one level of success in undergoing training in order to maintain or achieve higher performance in regional and international sports while awarding cash rewards to athletes who have shown outstanding achievements in the field of sports.

The reward scheme is also given to sports coaches for their active contributions in development and progress in training and all of these are as per the National Sports Policy.



Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah was pleased to receive SPKS Victory Rewards presented by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin.



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar also received SPKS Victory Rewards for polo sport at the event.

Brunei-Sultanate of Oman explores cooperation in religious field

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 6

– The Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman received a courtesy call from the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashel bin Rashed bin Hashel Al-Maskari.

The courtesy call that was held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), Jalan Dewan Majlis was aimed to further strengthen the existing affiliation between Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman, as well as to share experiences of common interests and to explore collaborative opportunities between the two countries in the religious field.

Also present was the Deputy



The Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashel bin Rashed bin Hashel Al-Maskari.

Permanent Secretary for (Administration and Finance) of MoRA, Awang Roslan bin Haji Taja'ah and the Deputy Permanent Secretary for (Policy and Religious) MoRA, Awang Haji Mohd. Serudin bin Haji Timbang.

His Excellency has presented his Letter of Credence to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on the 25th of February 2014.

Serving Brunei cuisine in a more sophisticated way

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 14 - Hotel management and restaurants are encouraged to serve Bruneian cuisine in a more sophisticated manner and to enhance the taste and presentation of Bruneian cuisine to serve as part of a fine dining experience at receptions held inside or outside the country.

The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong said it is important to provide unique Bruneian gastronomic experiences to people and visitors in the country.

"During the recent ASEAN Tourism Ministers' Meeting held in Chiang Mai, a joint declaration on Gastronomy Tourism was adopted. Gastronomic tourism helps to create a strong sense of place for branding and marketing destinations, and also assists in maintaining and preserving local heritage and identity and protecting biodiversity", said the Minister at the launch of the Brunei Gastronomy Week 2018 held at the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT).

Earlier, the Minister explained, the main purpose of the Brunei Gastronomy Week was to celebrate Brunei and to create awareness on Brunei's culinary diversity and extensive gastronomy.

According to the Minister, this year, the highlight of the Brunei Gastronomy Week 2018 is to promote food packed using banana leaves; where banana leaves are used to cook, pack and serve food in various cuisines in tropical and subtropical areas.

He added that this boosts the aroma and the flavours of the food. Certain Bruneian dishes which are usually wrapped in banana leaves are *pais daging*, *pais udang*, *pais ikan* and others.



The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong visiting the booths at the Brunei Gastronomy Week 2018.

At the event, the Minister also presented awards to the winners of the Brunei Gastronomy Week 2018.

Winning for The Best Taste was the Rizqun International Hotel, The Best Presentation was The Empire Hotel & Country Club, while The Best Innovation was URBN Kitchen, The Best Creativity was The Brunei Hotel and The Best Wholesomeness was Royal Brunei Airlines.

The ceremony continued with the presentation of the certificate of participation presented by the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism to representatives of agencies participating in the Brunei Gastronomy Week 2018.

Sub-Regional Defence Ministers' Meeting on Counter-Terrorism



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence in a group photo at The Sub-Regional Defence Ministers' Meeting on Counter-Terrorism.

PERTH, AUSTRALIA, February 2 - The Sub-Regional Defence Ministers' Meeting on Counter-Terrorism was held in Perth and hosted by the Minister for Defence of Australia, Senator the Honourable Marise Payne.

Representing Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, the Second Minister of Defence.

Also present at the meeting were His Excellency Retired General Ryamizard Ryacudu, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Indonesia; His Excellency Delfin Negrillo Lorenzana, Secretary of Defence of Republic of the Philippines; His Excellency Dato' Sri Mohd Johari bin Baharum, Deputy Minister of Defence, Malaysia; His Excellency Doctor Mohamad Maliki Osman, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, Republic of Singapore; and His Excellency General Chaichan Changmongkol, Deputy Minister of Defence, Kingdom of Thailand.

In her welcoming remarks, Senator the Honourable Marise Payne highlighted Australia's commitment to cooperate with sub-regional partners represented by six Southeast Asian countries in the fight against terrorism.

The meeting shared and exchanged views in improving the cooperation to counter the threat of terrorism which is increasing in the region.

The Ministers and delegates also had the opportunity to visit the Special Operations Command (SOCOMD) Counter-Terrorism Demonstration at Campbell Barracks.

Japan-Brunei Foreign Ministers Meeting strengthens cooperation with Japan

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 11 - The first Japan-Brunei Foreign Ministers' Meeting was to further strengthen the cooperation relationship between the two countries.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, His Excellency Taro Kono, who is visiting the country, held a meeting with the Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof.

Also present at the meeting was the Second Minister of Defence, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof.

The meeting was held at Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

According to the Deputy Press Secretary, Toshihide Ando, who is also the Deputy Director-General for Press and Public Diplomacy, at the Foreign Ministers' Meeting, His Excellency Taro Kono congratulated the Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Second Minister of Defence for their appointment on January 30 this year and His Excellency Taro Kono also expressed desires to deepen collaboration and strengthen extensive cooperation with Brunei, which now serves as the ASEAN's coordinating country for Japan, during the 45th ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.



The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, His Excellency Taro Kono during a meeting with Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof. Also present at the meeting was the Second Minister of Defence, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof.

Regarding bilateral relations, which is categorised by LNG trade and Japanese companies' investment in the energy field, His Excellency expressed his hope for extensive cooperation, including technical cooperation to assist with Brunei's effort in economic diversification, expansion of defence exchange cooperation, and the resumption of direct flights between Japan and Brunei for the first time since 1998.

He said that both Ministers agree on promotion of cooperation in these fields, including the need to sign the technical cooperation agreement under negotiation.

The Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade also expressed an interest to deepen understanding on the direction of the strategy and continue to cooperate

with Japan", said Toshihide Ando.

Earlier, Toshihide Ando explained the purpose of His Excellency's visit was to strengthen coordination with the country's coordinator for ASEAN-Japan relationship and this is the first visit of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan to Brunei within five years.

In addition, he added, to strengthen coordination of regional issues such as North Korea and so forth with Brunei, the coordinator of ASEAN-Japan dialogue relations, as well as to confirm the commitment to promote free trade and pioneering new bilateral cooperation, including cooperation for economic diversification.

Commander of the United States Pacific Command pays courtesy calls

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 21 - The Ministry of Defence received a courtesy call from the Commander of the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM), His Excellency Admiral Harry Binkley Harris Junior, who is on a two-day visit to the country from February 20 to February 22, 2018.

Upon arrival at the Ministry of Defence, Bolkliah Garrison, His Excellency Admiral Harry Binkley Harris Junior was welcomed by the Guard of Honour mounted by personnel from the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF).

He then proceeded to pay a courtesy call to the Second Minister of Defence, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof and the Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Force, Major General Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud.



Second Ministry of Defence, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof with the Commander of the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM), His Excellency Admiral Harry Binkley Harris Junior.

During the courtesy calls, both sides affirmed the longstanding and close bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the United States of America that continue to develop, especially through the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) which is preceded by Exercise Kingfisher between

the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) and United States Navy (USN).

Defence relations between the two countries are further bolstered by frequent defence interactions under the framework of ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-

Continue on page 23

Continue on page 23

Commander of the United States Pacific Command pays courtesy calls (continued)

Plus (ADMM) Plus including military exercises and conferences.

Prior to the courtesy call to the Ministry of Defence, His Excellency Admiral Harry Binkley Harris Junior had the opportunity to confer the Legion of Merit (Degree of Commander) award for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services" to Yang Dimulikan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General

Dato Paduka Seri Awang Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah, the former Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces at the US Ambassador's official residence.

Under the leadership of the former Commander of the RBAF, Brunei Darussalam participated for the first time in the Rim of the Pacific Exercise in 2014 and also hosted three multilateral conferences that was jointly organized

with USPACOM in Brunei Darussalam.

Yang Dimulikan Pehin was the first Commander of the RBAF, and the second Chief of Defence Force in the region, to receive such recognition.

This is His Excellency Admiral Harry Binkley Harris Junior's first visit to Brunei Darussalam since his appointment as the 24th Commander of USPACOM.

Brunei-Thailand is committed to strengthen defence ties



The Second Minister of Defence, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof (right) with the Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, His Excellency General Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan (left).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 27 - The Second Minister of Defence, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof received a courtesy call from the Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, His Excellency General

Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan held at Bolkliah Garrison, Ministry of Defence.

Upon arrival at the ministry, His Excellency General Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan inspected a Guard of Honour comprising of personnel from the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF).

Following the courtesy call to Yang Berhormat Second Minister of Defence, His Excellency then made courtesy call to the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), Major General Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud.

The main purpose of the official visit of His Excellency General Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan was to further strengthen the good relations between the two countries, while enhancing the importance of defence cooperation between the RBAF and the Royal Thai Armed Forces through various platforms.

Both sides also committed and gave assurance that the defence relations between the two countries will continue to be enhanced in the future.

His Excellency and spouse, Mrs. Jiraporn Srisuwan as well as his delegation arrived in the country for a three-day official visit.

Brunei - Kuwait strengthen ties through various collaborations

JERUDONG, February 26 - The Embassy of Kuwait in the country hosted a reception ceremony in conjunction with the 57th National Day and the 27th anniversary of Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait held at Indera Samudera Grand Hall, The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Representing His Majesty's Government at the ceremony was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd Daud, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and spouse.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Doctor Fahad Mashary Al-Thafiri, in his speech, highlighted the strong relationship between both countries is witnessing progress through frequent exchange of high-level visits.

His Excellency said that the visit of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait to the country in October 2016 has succeeded in establishing a strong foundation for future cooperation in various areas of common interest.

According to His Excellency, the Department of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office (EIDPMO) has invited



The Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Doctor Fahad Mashary Al-Thafiri during the cake cutting ceremony for Kuwait's National Day at the Reception Ceremony.

a group of high standards in the oil and gas from Kuwait, led by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation for a working visit to Brunei Darussalam, this visit was the first time to the country to follow up on Memorandums of Understanding and cooperation in the fields of oil and gas.

Continue on page 24

From page 23

Brunei - Kuwait strengthen ties through various collaborations (continued)

His Excellency added that it is a clear indication of the commitment of the two countries to further enhance understanding and create mechanisms for political and diplomatic negotiations.

He explained that the bilateral relations also are included in the field

of broadcasting, which 'Kuwait National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature' in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports will organise the 'Kuwait Culture and Arts Week' on the 12th until 17th of March 2018, presenting the life, art and culture of Kuwait held at International Convention Centre, Berakas.

The reception ceremony began with the singing of the national anthem of Brunei Darussalam and Kuwait, followed by a cake cutting ceremony for Kuwait's National Day, by the Minister and His Excellency.

Japanese Language and Cultural Week promotes learning opportunities

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 2 – Powerful performances from a group of instrumental musicians using a combination of traditional Japanese musical instruments and violin, 'Ryoma Quartet' opened the Japanese Language and Cultural Week (MBBJ) 2018 organised by the Embassy of Japan in Brunei Darussalam and Japanese Foundation held at Atrium of Times Square Shopping Centre.

The opening of MBBJ 2018 was jointly concluded by Yang Berhormat Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; His Excellency Motohiko Kato, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam and Dayang Amal Majidah, the General Manager of Times Square.

In the welcoming speech of His Excellency Motohiko Kato, the event was not only to promote Japanese Language but to also emphasise and provide opportunities for students to study in Japan through information sharing exhibition booths, including the Japanese Government Scholarships by BAJA, an introduction to basic Japanese language by IBTE-CET and a presentation on the ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programme (SSYEAP), its alumni association BERSATU, and the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students.

The event was supported by the Japan-Brunei Friendship Association (JBFA); the Japanese Association Brunei Darussalam (JABD); the Ryoma Quartet; the Akidio Federation; the Brunei Kendo Alliance; the Brunei Japan Friendship Association and Universiti Brunei Darussalam (BJFA-UBD Chapter); the Brunei Japan Friendship Association and Universiti Teknologi Brunei (BJFA-UTB Chapter); the Brunei Darussalam GO Association;



Yang Berhormat Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports (middle), His Excellency Motohiko Kato, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam (right) and Dayang Amal Majidah, the General Manager of Times Square Shopping Centre (left), during the official opening ceremony of the Japanese Language and Cultural Week 2018.

BERSATU (SSEAYP Alumni); Brunei Association of Japan Alumni (BAJA); Chef Yamane; the Continuing Education and Training Division of the Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE-CET); the Judo Academy Sports School; JENESYS Alumni; the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO); the Karate Academy Sports School, Miyazaki Prefecture; Shorinji Kempo (PERKEB); Stain.BN; Soul Industry and Yamako Pacific (B) Sdn. Bhd.

The three-day event includes various interesting activities including Children's Manga Coloring Contest, Stain.BN Graffiti Workshop, Japanese cooking demonstrations, martial arts demonstrations, photo booths, Japanese new music performances and more.

Plants contain a variety of health benefits

TUNGKU LINK, February 3 - Among the earliest scholars, Al -Imam Ibnu Qayyim Al-Jauziyyah in his book 'Thibb an-Nabawi' has listed the plants in the Al-Quran, explaining the efficacy and usefulness, mentioned in related hadiths.

This was stated by the State Mufti, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustadz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned while making the keynote presentation at the First International Symposium on 'Ethnobotany in the Quran and Hadith – An Exploration' organised by the Faculty of Science in cooperation with the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Centre for Islamic Studies and Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) at the UBD Chancellor Hall.

Yang Berhormat explained that the scholars continue to expand their studies with more diversity, encompassing all the plants in Al-Quran, including trees, vegetables as well as the plants in paradise and the plants in hell.

"They have managed to list so many plants and strived to

scientifically name each plant. However, this does not indicate an end to the studies," he noted.

According to the State Mufti, plants are infinite in number. The Al-Quran only mentions some specific names of the plant. Other than that, calling it generally through words such as 'syajara' or 'asy-syajara' or 'asy syajarat' (tree) and 'nabata' or 'anbatat' or 'anbatna' (grow).

Both words represent all kinds of trees and plants.

Touching on green plants, Yang Berhormat explained, it is the real key to health and the result of the study published in a neurology journal found that those who regularly consume half-a-bowl or consume green vegetables daily have strong memory as the younger ones, compared to those who did not or almost did not consume any.

"This is the importance of research. If there is no research, we will only consume without knowing the benefits", emphasised the State Mufti regarding the importance of research on nutritious plants.