



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

newsletter

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National Level Nuzul Al-Quran celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 27 – A call was made for Brunei Darussalam to continue enrich itself with Al-Quran knowledge. It, however, should not be for the sake of a competition but what is more important is to strengthen the development of Al-Quran studies in schools and learning centres.

The matters were highlighted by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) at the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Year 1431/2010 Celebration held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Majesty also highlighted on Brunei's proof of its achievement in the field of reading the Al-Quran. One sample is where Brunei's *Qariah* (female reader) who had won first runner-up in the International Al-Quran Reading Competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia early this month. His Majesty, in his *titah*, also congratulated the *Qariah* for her achievement.

His Majesty also said that Brunei Darussalam has recently been able to participate in regional and international Al-Quran memorising competitions. This, according to His Majesty, did not happen in the last two or three decades ago. This has shown that Brunei Darussalam is experiencing an encouraging development in the field of the Al-Quran.

Soon after delivering his *titah*, His Majesty presented prizes to the winners of each category.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* (royal speech) at the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Year 1431/2010 Celebration.

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

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More lands for paddy plantation



The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources launches the paddy planting in Kampung Junjongan.

MUKIM PENGKALAN BATU, August 7 – More lands have been opened for paddy plantation as one of the steps to achieve the desired target for self-sufficiency in rice production.

Thus another new area for paddy plantation was officially opened by Department of Agriculture and Agrifood at Kampung Junjongan, Mukim Pengkalan Batu of Brunei-Muara District.

The new area was opened in an effort to achieve the implementation of national rice production programme that is to increase the production to 20 per cent self-sufficiency by year 2010 and 60 per cent self-sufficiency by 2015. This area comprising of 200 hectares of land is expected to produce about three metric tonnes per hectare.

Present to officially opened the new land area was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya.

This land will be managed by the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood.

PHOTO: SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received separate audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman on August 3 from:



The Honourable Tan Sri Datuk Seri Utama Pandikar Amin bin Haji Mulia, Speaker of the Malaysian House of Representatives.



His Excellency Riewad Vicharwant Warjri, the outgoing High Commissioner of Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam.



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman on August 3 from the spouse of the outgoing High Commissioner of Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam, Dr. Beatrice Warjri.

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



The outgoing High Commissioner of the Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Riewad Vicharwant Warjri on August 9.

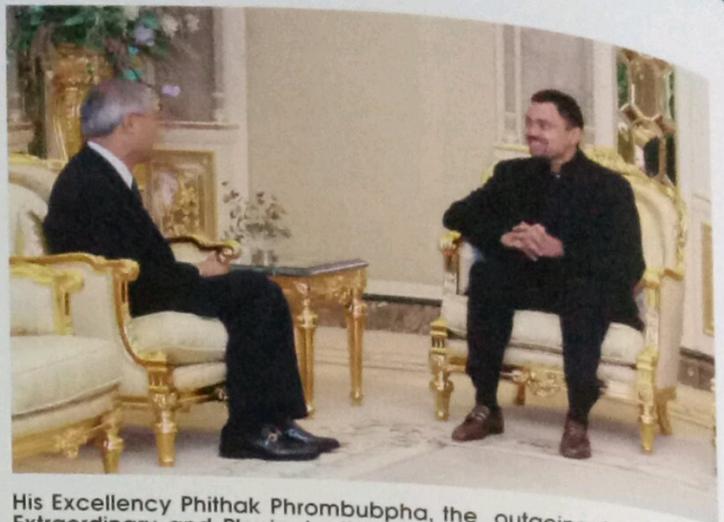


The Minister of General Administration of Sport (GAS) of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Liu Peng on August 10.

PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN
AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH
ABDUL KADIR MOHD. TAHIR
MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN



His Excellency Dato' Ku Jaafar bin Ku Shaari, the outgoing High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam on August 26.



His Excellency Phithak Phrombubpha, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam on August 30.

Knowledge and skill essential for youth

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 2 – The nation's future is dependent on the youth, thus it is essential to equip them with knowledge and skills.

This was said by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) at the 5th National Youth Day Celebration held at Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkhiah National Sports Complex in Berakas.

It was also highlighted that for social development and economic success, the youth must be bold hearted and ambitious.

Youth's involvement in entrepreneurship should be continuously encouraged through formal or non-formal training or education provided by the government. Therefore an in-depth understanding in entrepreneurship is vital as it would trigger various entrepreneurial activities and at the same time, reduce unemployment among youths.

Soon after delivering the *titah*, His Majesty consented to present awards to three outstanding youths and one association.

The recipient of 'Meritorious Youth Leader Award' was Awang Haji Md. Zain bin Tengah for his active contribution as youth leader since 1967 until present day. He was also the founder of several youth associations particularly in Tutong District and he is actively involved in youth activities.

Persatuan Pemuda Pemudi Penanjong Tutong (PERDA) was selected as recipient of Youth Association Award. PERDA is one of the earliest associations registered in the nation that is still active until today.

Meanwhile, Youth Service Award was presented to Awang Iswandy bin Ahmad, an active youth and a member to various associations



His Majesty in a group photo with the three outstanding youths and one association.



PHOTOS: RAMLI TENGAH

His Majesty toured around an exhibition showcasing products produced by local youths at the Youth Entrepreneur Expo 2010.

and organisations. Through his membership in Brunei Darussalam AIDS Council, he was selected as Youth Ambassador for Positive Living for Brunei Darussalam in Asian Regional Commonwealth. He also voluntarily organised HIV Awareness Programme for Peers and Youth (HAPPY) to schools, organisations, mosques and youth associations.

The recipient of Excellent Youth Award was Dayang Najibah Eradah binti Abdullah, one of the active members in Brunei Adventure Recreation Association (BARA) and through this association she became the first Bruneian woman and youth to successfully complete the Commonwealth Women's Antarctic Expedition.

More citizens receive housings and land titles

BELAIT, August 9 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam continues to ensure that its citizens receive proper and comfortable homes.

As such, through its housing programmes, more than 180 residents in the Belait District have received house keys and land titles for their new homes.

Present to grace the presentation of house keys and land titles ceremony was His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held at the Multi-purpose Hall of the Liang/Lumut Recreation Club.

At the ceremony, His Majesty conferred land title deeds to 71 recipients. They were selected under the Temporary Occupation Licensed (TOL) land grant housing scheme in the Belait District.

His Majesty also presented house keys to 116 recipients under the National Housing Scheme in Kampung Lumut-Liang.

Soon after the presentation, His Majesty visited several homes of the recipients.

His Majesty also visited the Sungai Liang Primary School and the Sungai Liang Health Centre.

PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT



His Majesty presents the house key to one of the recipients.

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI



The Sungai Liang Health Centre is one of the places visited by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

* from front page
(National Level Nuzul Al-Quran celebration)

This year's competition was opened for four categories and witnessed 122 people participating in the competition which only 19 qualified to final.

Ak. Md. Ashim Afif bin Pg. Haji Md. Zin won in Category A. He received cash prize of \$1,500 as well as a trophy and a certificate. The category is the memorisation of the *Surah Al-Insyaqaaq*, *Surah Al-Buruuj*, *Surah Ath-Thariq*, *Surah Al-A'laa*, *Surah Al-Ghasyiyah*, *Surah Al-Fajr*, *Surah Al-Balad*, *Surah Asy-Syams* and the verses from *Surah Ad-Dhuha* up to *Surah Quraisy* as well as the understanding of *Surah Al-Fajr* for 10 years and below.

In Category B, the winner was Dk. Anisah Salwa binti Pg. Haji Bahrin. She received a cash prize of \$2,000 as well as a trophy and a certificate. In this category, the participants were required to memorise *Surah As-Sajdah*, *Surah Yaasin*, *Surah Ad-Dukhan*, *Surah Ar-Rahman*, *Surah Al-Waqi'ah*, *Surah Al-Jumua'ah*, *Surah Al-Mulk*, *Surah Al-Insaan* as well as the understanding of *Surah Al-Luqman* for 15 years old.

Meanwhile Category C was won by Awang Mohammad Najib bin Haji Aliakbar. He received a cash prize of \$2,800 as well as a trophy and a certificate. The category which was opened for all ages required participants to memorise fourteen chapters of the Al-Quran as well as the understanding of the fourth chapter.

And in Category D was won by Ak. Khairul Ikhwan bin Pg. Alif. He received \$4,500 as well as a trophy and a certificate. The category required participants to memorise thirty chapters of the Al-Quran as well as the understanding



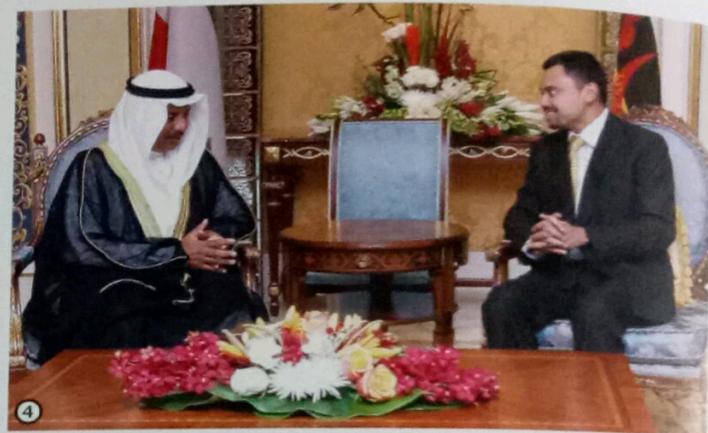
His Majesty presents a trophy to the winner of Category D, Ak. Khairul Ikhwan bin Pg. Alif.

of the fifteenth chapter. The category was opened for all ages.

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office who was on an official visit to Kuwait received separate audiences on August 1 from:



❶ His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait at Istana Al-Seif.

❷ His Excellency Hussain Al-Huraiti, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly at Diwaniya, Bayan Palace.

❸ His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defence at Diwaniya, Bayan Palace.

❹ His Excellency Ghanim Al-Ghunaim, Deputy Director General of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development at Diwaniya, Bayan Palace.

PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN



On the fourth day of official visit to Kuwait, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience the Chief of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), His Excellency Badar R. Elsaad, at Diwaniya, Bayan Palace.

Crown Prince visits Al Kabeer Mosque, KCCI and Scientific Centre

KUWAIT CITY, August 2 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister's Office continued his second-day official visit to Kuwait by first visiting Kuwait's landmark - the Al Kabeer Mosque (the Grand Mosque), the biggest and most modern mosque in Kuwait. Located in the heart of Kuwait City, the mosque was built in 1979 and completed in 1980. With an area of 45,000 square meters, the mosque can accommodate approximately 10,000 male congregations and 950 female congregations separately.

Then, His Royal Highness proceeded to visit Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI). KCCI is a non-profit making institution and the financing is constituted under the Amiri decree in 1959. Currently, KCCI has more than 79,000 registered members. The chamber is an advisory council for all economic affairs.

Later in the afternoon, His Royal Highness visited the Kuwait Scientific Centre (Aquarium). Aquarium has a role to give positive impact on the ecosystem of the gulf region besides increasing and strengthening Kuwait's cultural heritage. The centre also organises special activities to create awareness and knowledge related to the environment.



His Royal Highness receiving a briefing on the history and development of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI). Also present was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi.

His Royal Highness receiving a briefing from Mijbil S. Almutawa, the Chairman and Managing Director of Scientific Centre of Kuwait.



Crown Prince visits KOC Exhibition Centre



His Royal Highness takes a closer look on the exhibition displayed at the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC).

KUWAIT CITY, August 3 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office continued his third day official visit to Kuwait by visiting the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) Exhibition Centre at Al-Hamadi Governorate.

Accompanying His Royal Highness was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda "Abdul Qawi.

The KOC Exhibition Centre features detailed history of KOC establishment and oil drilling process until export.

KOC is one of the world's largest oil companies established in 1934 by Anglo-Persian Oil Company, now known as British Petroleum Company and Chevron Corporation.

In 1938, oil was discovered in commercial quantities in the Burgan Field. In June 1946, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the late Emir of Kuwait, inaugurated the export of the first crude ship. In 1975, the Kuwait Government took over 100 per cent of the KOC.

The company's activities has extended to include exploration operations, onshore, offshore surveys, drilling of test wells, and developing of producing fields in addition to crude and natural gas exploration.

Charity Golf Tournament

JERUDONG, August 8 – In the bid to raise funds for the Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans, a three-day Charity Golf Tournament was organised.

More than 200 golfers participated in the tournament which included cabinet ministers and senior government officers.

Emerged as champion for the Overall 'Gross' Category was Tony bin Haji Karim followed by Haji Shahrin bin Yusoff as winner of the Overall 'Nett' Category. The winner for the Division A 'Nett' was Pengiran Haji Zulkefli bin Pengiran Haji Besar; followed by Awang Azman bin Latip for Division B 'Nett'; and Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Besar for Division C 'Nett'.

The winner for the VIP 'Gross' Category was Dato Paduka Awang Sa Bali; while the VIP 'Nett' Category was won by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Setia Diraja Sahibul Karib Pengiran Anak Haji Idris.

While the winner for Senior 'Gross' Category was Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd) Haji Abd Aziz; and Awang Haji Ismail Jaafar for Senior 'Nett' Category.

Women's 'Gross' Category was won by Sarinah binti Haji Masri; while the Junior 'Nett' Category was won by Siti Nora Yusreena binti Hanifah.



His Royal Highness presents the trophy to Tony bin Haji Karim, the champion for the Overall 'Gross' Category.

In attendance to present the prizes was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

The event was held at the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club.

BICTA winners to represent Brunei at APICTA

JERUDONG, August 10 – Winners of the 6th Brunei Information Communication Technology Award (BICTA) 2010 will represent Brunei Darussalam at the Asia Pacific ICT Award (APICTA) competition to be held from October 10 to 14 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The winners for this year's BICTA are as follows:

- ICT Industry Category on ICT Media and Entertainment Product named as 'InDepth Stereo' by Teleconsult Sendirian Berhad; who received \$10,000 and trophy.
- 'Rubik's Cube Solving Robot' by Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) won the Tertiary School Category and received \$7,000 and trophy.
- Chung Hwa Middle School (SMCH) Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) won the Secondary School Category with their 'SPN21 SPGRS – Student Performance Grading and Reporting System' and received \$3,000 and trophy.

Four Special Awards namely Patron's Award, Made in Brunei Product Award, Green ICT Award and Islamic Award were also presented.

The Patron's Award was awarded to Teleconsult Sendirian Berhad with their creation 'InDepth Stereo'; while Cyberunei eServices with their creation 'Pasang Emas' won the Made in Brunei Product Award.

The Green ICT Award was awarded to SMCH BSB and Islamic Award was won by Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) with their creation 'eSmaal Salam'.

In attendance to present the awards was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as Royal Patron of BICTA 2010.

This year's BICTA has given an additional incentive which aimed to ensure that innovative product from BICTA would be able to be developed as commercially viable and added by Brunei Darussalam's incentive for winning APICTA where a grant of \$50,000 would be provided for developing their product into a commercial product that could compete in the market.



His Royal Highness presents a trophy to the winner of ICT Industry Category on ICT Media and Entertainment Product named as 'InDepth Stereo' by Teleconsult Sendirian Berhad.



His Royal Highness takes a closer look on an exhibition on innovative products by participants of ICT BICTA Awards.



210 trees planted in conjunction with Youth Olympic Games

SINGAPORE, August 13 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council with other members of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) participated in a tree-planting event at the Promenade Sesiaran Tepian Air, Marina Bay.

A total of 210 trees were planted as a symbol of friendship spirit in the 1st Youth

Olympic Games. The Deputy Prime Minister as the Minister of Defence and the President of National Olympic Council of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Teo Chee Hean said, the trees will be a witness for every National Olympic Council's participation in Youth Olympic Games.

Brunei Darussalam participates in 1st YOG

SINGAPORE, August 14 – Brunei Darussalam joined other countries to participate in the 1st Edition of Youth Olympic Games (YOG) held at the Republic of Singapore from August 14 to 26.

The colourful Opening Ceremony for the inaugural YOG was officiated by the President of Singapore, His Excellency S.R. Nathan at the Marina Bay.

Present at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC).

Also present at the opening ceremony were Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi; Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman and Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair whom were on special invitation by the Government of the Republic of Singapore.

Brunei Darussalam would be participating in two sporting events namely aquatic and athletics.

The athletes are Jeremy Joint Riong for Aquatics (two events: 50m and 100m - Breaststroke); Amanda Jia Xin for Aquatics (two events: 50m Freestyles and 50m Butterfly) and Maziah Mahusin for Athletics (event: 400m Hurdles).

YOG is considered as the biggest sports event and organised in modern sports that has attracted participation of about 5,000 athletes and officials from 204 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) including Brunei Darussalam.

Young athletes aged between 14 and 18 years would



The Youth Olympic Games flag hoisting ceremony.

be competing in 26 sports events and taking part in the Culture and Education Programme.

The Singapore 2010 YOG aims to inspire youth around the world to embrace, embody and express the Olympic Values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect. It will create a lasting sports, culture and education legacy for Singapore and youths from around the world, as well as enhance and elevate the sporting culture locally and regionally.

President of BDNOC witnesses swimming event

SINGAPORE, August 16 – Jeremy Joint Riong recorded his new personal record in 100-metre men butterfly stroke in swimming event in the second heats of Youth Olympic Games in Singapore.

Aged 17 years old, Jeremy set his new personal time of 1.11.27 seconds that overcome his previous record of 1.13.00 seconds.

Present to witness the event was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC).



The President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council witnesses the swimming event.

HRH participates in Youth Day Run



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

His Royal Highness launches the Youth Day Run in conjunction with National Youth Day 2010.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 1 – His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik participated in the Youth Day Run in conjunction with the National Youth Day 2010.

The event was held at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in the capital.

At the event, His Royal Highness joined in an aerobic session. Youth Day Run is one of the side events of the National Youth Day 2010 celebration organised by the Youth and Sports Department held every August 1.

The run started at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien. The men ran for ten kilometres; women ran for five kilometres and the Fun Run covered 2.5 kilometres around the capital.

His Royal Highness also presented prizes to the winner of the Youth Day 2010 Run. The run aimed at bringing youths together from throughout the country in a gathering to celebrate National Youth Day as well as to strengthen relations and generate integration among members of the young generation in the country.

Four women recognised for their leadership

JERUDONG, August 5 – Four women received awards in recognition of their excellent leadership in their respective fields.

In attendance to present the 'Tribute to Brunei Women Leaders' Awards' was Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah.

The recipients for 'Young Woman Achiever' Awards were Dayangku Najibah Eradah binti PAM Al-Sufri, the first Bruneian to reach the South Pole; and Dayangku Nurazrina binti Pengiran Hasanah, recipient of the Sword of Honour at the Second Intake Officer Cadet School Sovereign's Parade Ceremony last January.

The award for 'Woman Achiever in Corporate Sector' was presented to Haslina Taib, the Chief Executive Officer of BAG Networks on her achievement as an excellent leader in the corporate world.

Meanwhile, Dr. Sharina binti Yunus, the President and founder of Learning Ladders received the 'Emerging Woman Leader in Social Work' Award for her involvement in improving the quality of life for children with autism.

The awards were presented during 'The Women's Forum 2010' held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.



Her Royal Highness presents the award to one of the recipients of the 'Tribute to Brunei Women Leaders'.

Congratulatory Messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to:

- President of Singapore, His Excellency S.R. Nathan and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong in conjunction with the republic's 45th National Day on August 9.
- President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, in conjunction with the republic's 65th Independence Day anniversary on August 17.
- His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin, the 13th Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and his Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak in conjunction with Malaysia's 53rd Independence Day on August 31.

'Everest Trekking Amal' collects more than \$50K



The Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Hajah Adina receives a cheque from the President of BCF, Awang Haji Zainal Abidin.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 3 – More than \$50,000 have been collected by the Brunei Chess Federation (BCF) from their 'Everest Trekking Amal' Project.

The collection was fully donated to the country's National Welfare Fund, under the Community Development Department (JAPEM), Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. It would be utilised to assist less fortunate citizens to rebuild their depilated homes.

The sum was collected through the 'Everest Trekking Amal' Project, where public could donate through short messaging system (SMS) campaign 'SMS Brunei Prihatin' and online at www.trekking.com.bn which is the first online donation in Brunei Darussalam.

Besides public donation, BCF also received contribution from the B-Mobile Communications and DST Group.

The donation was presented by the President of BCF, Awang Haji Zainal Abidin to the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Hajah Adina at the Seri Kandi Restaurant in Kiulap.

The 'Everest Trekking Amal' which began from April 23 to May 9 involved eight Bruneians exploring Nepal to climb to Everest Base Camp (EBC). At EBC, the BCF members held a chess tournament at the highest point in the world.

Allied Health Professionals urged to be proactive

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 4 – In the bid to enhance quality of work and professionalism, Allied Health Professionals were urged to be steadfast and proactive. To ensure that procedures run consistently and fulfil the desired standard, all professions in 'Allied Health' were also recommended to update their respective Standard Operating Procedures.

The matters were highlighted by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at a meeting and dialogue session with Allied Health Professionals from the Ministry of Health.

The minister also welcomed plans and implementation of projects in conducting Allied Health trainings. One of the projects is a Diploma training programme in 'Pharmacy Technician' scheduled to take place in 2011/2012. The minister expressed his hope that the problem of lack in manpower in this profession could be overcome through this programme. He also recommended for other courses to be conducted particularly those in the field of 'Allied Health Professionals' that experience lack in manpower.

The meeting and dialogue session took place at Hua Ho Manggis Mall.



The Minister of Health at a meeting and dialogue session with Allied Health Professionals from the Ministry of Health.

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. AU

HM sends message of condolence

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 16 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent a message of condolence to His Excellency Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council, People's Republic of China following the recent landslides effecting Gansu Province in the republic.

In the message, His Majesty expressed great sadness at the tragedy and conveyed the deepest sympathies and condolences of the Government and people of Brunei Darussalam for the disaster as well as the many lives that have been lost as a result of the recent floods and landslides. His Majesty also expressed his confidence that under the astute leadership of His Excellency and colleagues, China would overcome this difficult time.

Did you know that...

- Oil exploration in Brunei Darussalam began in 1899 when oil seepage was discovered at Ayer Bekunchi in Brunei District (now Brunei Muara District).
- Oil was only discovered in 1929 at Seria of Belait District.
- Coal was an important export item for Brunei before the discovery of oil.
- Brunei Darussalam introduced its government newspaper known as Pelita Brunei on February 15, 1956.
- Brunei's first National Development Plan was launched in 1953 to cover a period of five years.
- Brunei Currency Board issued Brunei's first own currency in 1967 to replace the Straits dollar used since 1906.

>> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

- Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.
- Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.
- It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.
- Land size is 5765 sq. km
- Population is estimated at 406,200 people (2009)
- It is divided into four districts – Brunei Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.
- Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.
- Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.
- National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.
- It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

Public Warning: The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam

>> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

- By air - Brunei's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines travels to more than 20 destinations around the world. The airline also has worldwide office for you to book a return flight to Brunei (to know the nearest RBA's office at your place, please log to: www.brunelair.com)
- International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, one of Malaysia's lowest airfare carrier has direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Brunei.
- Arrival by plane would land you to Brunei International Airport (BWN), the sole airport in the nation.
- For those who enjoy journey by sea, you can reach Brunei by boat or ferry. The main ferry terminal in Brunei is the Serasa Ferry Terminal at Muara. You can catch a ferry from Labuan, Sabah or Lawas and Sundar, both in Sarawak, a state of the neighbouring country, Malaysia. Another option is via a boat from Limbang, Sarawak which will arrive at the jetty around Jalan Residency area in the Capital.
- You would have two options of entry point to Brunei by land transport. You can enter through the Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait District or the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post in Brunei Muara District. The Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait is the entry point for those from Miri, Sarawak. While the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post is the entrance for those coming from Limbang, Sarawak, Kota Kinabalu, and Kalimantan.

CSPS launches Journal Volume 1

GADONG, August 4 – The Centre for Strategic and Policy Studies (CSPS) had launched CSPS Policy and Strategy Journal Volume 1 on Economic Diversification on July 26.

The journal is a compilation of commentary briefs by international and local authors.

It consisted of six articles that are Economic Diversification in Brunei Darussalam by Manu Bhaskaran; An Economist's Perspective on Economic Diversification in Brunei Darussalam by Roger Neil Lawrey and Challenges in Achieving Wawasan Brunei 2035 Goals: Economic Diversification in Perspective by Abdul Amin Haji Hashim.

The other three are Economic Diversification: Creating a conducive Environment for SME's to flourish in Brunei Darussalam by Dato Dr. Haji Ismail bin Haji Duraman and Nawin Tharumarajah; Trade, Economic Policy and Diversification; The Malaysian Experience by Shankaran Nambiar; and Economic Diversification and Environment Security; Key Challenges for Asian Governments by Euston Quah Teong Ewe.

The journal deliberates key issues faced by the nation in confronting both globalisation and the need for Brunei to promote a vibrant, non-oil and gas economy.

CSPS also published five reports

entitled: Economic Diversification by Mark Crosby (Melbourne Business Schools); Economic Diversification in Brunei Darussalam by Manu Bhaskaran (Centennial Group); A Study of Unemployment Issues among Registered Jobseekers in Brunei Darussalam by Dr Diana Cheong and Dr. Roger Lawrey (Universiti Brunei Darussalam); Social Security Roundtable 2007 Follow Up Report by American Insurance Group (AIG) and Brunei Pension Report by the World Bank.

The CSPS journal is priced at \$20 and five sets of reports for \$50. Interested parties can contact CSPS at 2445841.

Government acknowledges women's role



The Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports at the official opening of 'The Women's Forum 2010'.

JERUDONG, August 5 – The government acknowledges women's role in the nation's socio-economic development and this is reflected in Brunei Darussalam's National Vision 2035 which emphasises on equal opportunities for women in the workforce and nation's development.

The matters were said by the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Hajah Adina at the official opening of 'The Women's Forum 2010' held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Women in this country, said Datin Hajah Adina, are given equal rights in education, training, health care, jobs,

businesses, asset ownership and others.

She further added that 49 per cent from Brunei's total population in 2009 were made up of women in which 75.3 per cent were aged between 39 years below.

The government is always committed to provide high quality of living to its citizen regardless of gender.

The deputy minister further said that government's policies have been proven with good and excellent indicators in which this country has nearly achieved all Millennium Development Goals; and at no. 30 in Human Development Index (HDI) of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

With the theme entitled 'Women Rising: New Aspirations, New Challenges', the forum was attended by more than 200 women participants from various sectors including from overseas.

The forum provides opportunities for participants to learn and share prospective on issues and main challenges; and the importance of women's role in leadership and nation development, entrepreneurial leadership, personal and family financial management and also unique ability in making a difference.

Various topics were discussed by speakers from local and abroad, who among others touched on role and involvement of women and challenges they faces.

'The Women's Forum 2010' was organised by Asia Inc. Forum with cooperation from Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) and Brunei Darussalam Islamic Bank (BIBD).

Minister of Education on work visit to Kuala Lumpur

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia, August 6 – The Minister of Education, Pehin Dato (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar and entourage were on a work visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

One of the itineraries was a courtesy call to The Right Honourable Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia who is also Malaysia's Education Minister.

The courtesy call aimed to further enhance relations and strengthen education cooperation between both countries.

Both ministers shared current developments of respective education systems. Among the matters included changes to the school's evaluation system, the increase in usage of English Language and role of technical and vocational education system in the development of respective countries.



Vascular Symposium 2010



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan officiating Vascular Symposium 2010.

JERUDONG, August 8 – Doctors and nurses were urged to practice health promotion as part of their daily routine. This is because such promotion would provide better awareness

on non-infectious diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, and high level of cholesterol.

The matters were said by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at the official opening of Vascular Symposium held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

The minister further said that health officers should enhance their skills and knowledge in promoting health. What is important, according to the minister, health professionals should become a role model in promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Vascular problems including heart and neurovascular are the most common cause of death in the country. Thus, Dr. Haji Luqman, the Head of Cardiology Department of Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital said that the symposium was held as one of the measures to overcome it.

This symposium will enable the exchange of information and expertises among foreign and local specialists.

The symposium is jointly organised by the Cardiology Department and Neurosurgery Department of RIPAS Hospital; and attended by more than 200 health professionals including doctors, nurses and pharmacists.

Brunei Masters Open Athletics Championships 2010

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 8 – Two hundred and sixty veteran athletes participated in the Brunei Masters Open Athletics Championships 2010. The athletes were from nine countries namely Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, India, Malaysia (Sabah, Labuan and Sarawak), Singapore, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Turkey and Hong Kong.

The competition was officially opened by Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Hajah Adina at the Track and Field Complex, Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

Sixteen track and field sports events for men and women categories were contested among others 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres, 4 x 100 metres, shot-put, high jump, long jump and javelin throw.

It was organised by Brunei Veteran Athletics Association with cooperation of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and supported by students from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and Sultan Saiful Rijal Technical College (MTSSR), Prison Department and Royal Brunei Police Cadet.

Large allocation for education sector

JERUDONG, August 9 – In its effort to produce educated and skilled citizens in various suitable fields towards the nation's development, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has annually allocated a large sum of budget for the education sector.

This continuous investment by the government is for producing successful, educated and highly skilled citizens; has a high quality of life; and dynamic and sustainable economy as targeted in Brunei Vision 2035.

The Minister of Education, Pehin Dato (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar stated the matters at a thanksgiving and gathering ceremony for government scholarship students (local and overseas) session 2010/2011 at the Conference Hall, BRIDEX.

Hence, he said, this is the reason why the Ministry of Education has always ensured that the students sent overseas would be able to pursue their education at highly reputable universities.

In providing high quality education, the ministry would continuously make effort to think and find best ways to enhance the education at all levels in the nation.

According to him, one of the areas that would be given serious attention is technical and vocational education. It would not only focus on providing technical and vocational path through implementation of SPN21 at secondary schools through Applied Programme but also makes efforts in adding infrastructures for technical and vocational institutions including a plan to establish a polytechnic.

Hopefully, said the minister, it would provide wider opportunities to accommodate more students who wish to pursue higher education in these areas; and fulfils the country's need.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

The Minister of Education said that the ministry would continuously find ways to enhance educations at all levels.

Two hundred and seventy-nine students received education scholarship for 2010/2011 session. From the numbers, 233 received the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam Scholarship to local and overseas from Ministry of Education; 45 are recipients of Department of Economic Planning and Development's Human Resource Special Fund to overseas; three received Brunei Darussalam Administration Scholarship; 17 are recipients of Brunei Shell Petroleum Scholarship; and five received scholarship from Ministry of Religious Affairs.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) APRIL 2010

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 13 – The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in April 2010 decreased marginally over March 2010. Compared with April 2009, the CPI increased by 0.3 per cent. Meanwhile, the CPI for January to April 2010 rose by 0.4 per cent compared with the same period last year.

The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index decreased by 0.3 per cent over March 2010. On a year-on-year basis, the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index was 0.1 per cent higher.

On the other hand, the Non-Food Index rose marginally over March 2010. Compared with the same month last year, the Non-Food Index was 0.4 per cent higher.

On a period-on-period basis, the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index increased by 0.7 per cent. The Non-Food Index for January to April 2010 went up by 0.4 per cent compared with the same period last year.

The month-on-month changes (April 2010 compared with March 2010), shown that the CPI in April 2010 decreased marginally over March 2010.

Decreases by 0.3 per cent were recorded in Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages due to decreases in fish and seafood (3.4 per cent), oil and fats (less than 0.05 per cent), vegetables (0.2 per cent) and mineral waters, soft drinks, fruit and vegetables juices (less than 0.05 per cent).

Meanwhile, Non-Food Index increased marginally over March 2010 due to increases in clothing and footwear (0.4 per cent) as a result of higher prices of both men's and women's outer clothing and under clothing, boys' and girls' clothing, infants' clothing as well as other articles of clothing.

Housing, Water and Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels (less than 0.05 per cent) as a result of higher costs of materials for the maintenance and repair of dwelling.

Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance (less than 0.05 per cent) due to higher prices of household textiles, glassware and crockery, non-electrical household utensils as well as tools and equipment for house.

Transport (less than 0.05 per cent) due to higher cost of spare parts and accessories of vehicles; and Miscellaneous Goods and Services (less than 0.05 per cent) due to higher prices of non-electrical appliances and other products for personal care.

The year-on-year changes (April 2010 compared with April 2009); shown that the CPI in April 2010 was 0.3 per cent higher than the same month in 2009.

Increases were recorded in Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (0.1 per cent) due to increases in rice and cereals (0.7 per cent), meat (0.2 per cent), milk, dairy products and eggs (2.4 per cent), fruits (1.3 per cent), sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionery (1.3 per cent), other food products (2.0 per cent) and coffee, tea and cocoa (0.3 per cent).

The Non-Food Index also rose that is by 0.4 per cent compared to the same month last year due to increases in tobacco (0.2 per cent) due to increase prices of cigarettes.

Housing, Water and Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels (0.1 per cent) following higher prices of materials for the maintenance and repairs of the dwelling; Health (1.9 per cent) as a result of higher prices of medicinal preparations and patent medicines as well as out-patient dental services.

Transport (1.4 per cent) due to higher costs of spare parts and accessories of vehicles, lubricants and similar products as well as passenger transport by air; Recreation and Culture (0.5 per cent) due to an increase in prices of magazines and periodicals, stationery and drawing materials as well as package holidays.

Education (0.1 per cent) following higher fees of selected private schools for kindergarten education; and Restaurants and Hotels (1.3 per cent) as a result of higher prices of selected food items in restaurants and cafes as well as fast-food outlets, canteens and other eating places.

Based on the contribution to change, Transport (103.2 per cent); Restaurants and Hotels (30.7 per cent); and Recreation and Culture (11.9 per cent) were the main contributors to the overall increase.

Period-on-period changes (January – April 2010 compared with January – April 2009), the average CPI for the first four months (January – April) in 2010 was 0.4 per cent higher than the same period in 2009.

Increases were recorded in Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (0.7 per cent); Tobacco (0.2 per cent); Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels (0.2 per cent); Health (1.9 per cent); Transport (1.1 per cent); Restaurants and Hotels (1.1 per cent); and Miscellaneous Goods and Services (0.2 per cent) while Education increased marginally.

Minister attends reception



PHOTO: HATIRAL HAZMI ABDUL HAMID

The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Colonel (Rtd.) Dato Haji Awang Mohammad Yasmin and the High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Joseph K H Koh attended a reception to mark the 45th anniversary of the Republic of Singapore's National Day on August 9 held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Minister of Religious Affairs on work visit to Malaysia and Indonesia



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 9 – The Minister of Religious Affairs, Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad conducted a series of courtesy call and working visit to the MABIM Religious Ministers in Malaysia and Indonesia.

In Malaysia, on August 2, the minister witnessed the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Skudai, Johore with Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB) held at UTM.

Signing on behalf UTM was its vice chancellor, Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Zaini bin Ujang meanwhile on behalf KUPU SB was Dr. Hajah Masnon binti Haji Ibrahim, Ra'es KUPU SB.

On August 3, the minister conducted a courtesy call to the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Malaysia, The Honourable Senator Major General Dato Seri Haji Jamil Khir.

Meanwhile on August 5, the delegation continued their working visit to Jakarta, Indonesia with a courtesy visit to the Minister of Religious of the Republic of Indonesia, The Honourable Tuan Suryadarna Ali. In Indonesia, the Brunei's delegation visited several agencies and religious education institutions.

Oratory competition to mark ASEAN Day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 10 – Brunei Darussalam through Information Department as ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (COCI) Subcommittee on Information and in cooperation with Ministry of Education organised the inaugural oratory competition to commemorate ASEAN Day 2010.

Emerged as champion was Dayang Nurafizah @ Nurul Shadah binti Samat from Maktab Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah where she received a cash prize, trophy, certificate and an ASEAN interactive game.

This competition was opened for sixth form students throughout the country. Each participant was given three topics related to ASEAN to choose from.

Present as guest of honour and presenting the prizes was Director of Research, Development and International Affairs at Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dr. Mataim bin Bakar who is Chairman of ASEAN COCI National Committee.

ASEAN Day is celebrated every August 8 and this year marked the 43rd anniversary of ASEAN.

ASEAN was established on August 8, 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Brunei Darussalam joined ASEAN on January 8, 1984.



PHOTO: ABDEL KADIR MOHD. TAHIR

The Director of Research, Development and International Affairs at Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Chairman of ASEAN COCI National Committee presents a trophy to the champion of the Oratory Competition, Dayang Nurafizah @ Nurul Shadah binti Samat from Maktab Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) MAY 2010

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 14 – The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in May 2010 decreased by 0.1 per cent over April 2010. Compared with May 2009, the CPI increased by 0.2 per cent. Meanwhile, the CPI for January to May rose by 0.4 per cent compared with the same period last year.

The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index increased marginally over April 2010. On a year-on-year basis, the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index was 0.2 per cent higher.

On the other hand, the Non-Food Index fell by 0.1 per cent over April 2010. Compared with the same month last year, the Non-Food Index was 0.2 per cent higher.

On a period-on-period basis, the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index increased by 0.6 per cent. The Non-Food Index for January to May went up by 0.3 per cent compared with the same period last year.

The month-on-month changes (May 2010 compared with April 2010), the CPI in May 2010 decreased by 0.1 per cent over April 2010.

The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index increased marginally over April 2010 due to increases in fish and seafood (0.4 per cent), fruit (0.4 per cent), and vegetables (0.4 per cent).

The Non-Food Index decreased by 0.1 per cent compared to April 2009.

The decreases were recorded in clothing and footwear (0.1 per cent) as a result of lower prices of men's and women's outer clothing, girls' clothing, infants' clothing as well as other articles of clothing; furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance (less than 0.05 per cent) due to lower prices of household textiles, major household appliances, small electric household appliances, cleaning and maintenance products, articles for cleaning as well as other non-durable household goods; health (0.1 per cent) due to lower costs of medicinal preparations and patent medicines; recreation and culture (less than 0.05 per cent) as a result of decreased prices of books; restaurants and hotels (0.7 per cent) due to lower prices of selected food items in restaurants and cafes, and miscellaneous goods and services (0.3 per cent) due to lower prices of articles for personal hygiene, other products for personal care as well as travel goods and bags.

Meanwhile the year-on-year changes (May 2010 compared with May 2009) shown that the CPI in May 2010 was 0.2 per cent higher than the same month in 2009.

Increases were recorded in food and non-alcoholic beverages (0.2 per cent). The increased were due to increases in rice and cereals (0.6 per cent); meat (0.2 per cent); milk, dairy products and eggs (1.7 per cent); fruits (0.6 per cent); vegetables (1.2 per cent); sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionery (0.9 per cent); other food products (1.2 per cent); and coffee, tea and cocoa (0.6 per cent).

The Non-Food Index also rose by 0.2 per cent compared to the same month last year. The increases were recorded in:

Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (less than 0.05 per cent) following higher prices of materials for the maintenance and repair of the dwelling; health (1.7 per cent) as a result of higher prices of medicinal preparations and patent medicines as well as out-patient dental services; transport (1.2 per cent) due to higher costs of spare parts and accessories of vehicles, lubricants and similar products as well as passenger transport by air; recreation and culture (0.1 per cent) due to increase prices of magazines and periodicals, stationery and drawing materials as well as package holidays; education (0.1 per cent) following higher fees of selected private schools for kindergarten education; and restaurants and hotels (0.6 per cent) as a result of higher prices of selected food items in fast-food outlets, canteens and other eating places.

Based on the contribution to change of index, transport (146.0 per cent); food and non-alcoholic beverages (23.8 per cent); and restaurants and hotels (23.1 per cent) were the main contributors to the overall increase.

On the period-on-period changes (January-May 2010 compare with January-May 2009) shown that the average CPI for the first five months (January-May) of 2010 was 0.4 per cent higher than the same period in 2009.

Increases were recorded in food and non-alcoholic beverages (0.6 per cent); tobacco (0.1 per cent); housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (0.2 per cent); health (1.9 per cent); transport (1.1 per cent); education (0.1 per cent); restaurants and hotels (1.0 per cent); and miscellaneous goods and services (0.2 per cent).

Brunei – Dominica establish diplomatic relationship

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 10 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has established diplomatic relationship with the Government of the Republic of Dominica.

The signing of joint communiqué was held at the office of Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations Organisation (UN) in New York.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was represented by His Excellency Latif bin Tuah, the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to UN, New York; meanwhile the Government of the Republic of Dominica was represented by His Excellency Federico Alverto Cuello Camilo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Dominica to UN.

Brunei Darussalam participates in Al-Quran Memorisation Competition



PHOTO: PG. AMIRULIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD ALI

Awang Abdul Hazim @ Azeem bin Haji Abdul Halim (centre) represents Brunei Darussalam to the 14th International Memorisation of 30 Juzuk of Al-Quran in Dubai.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 14 – Brunei Darussalam will participate in the 14th International Memorisation of 30 Juzuk (chapters) of Al-Quran held in Dubai.

Representing Brunei Darussalam is Awang Abdul Hazim @ Azeem bin Haji Abdul Halim, a student from Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah from 'Aliyah Qiraat Diploma Programme.

The competition will be held from August 18 to 30 and participated by 70 participants who will require undergoing three stages of competition.

Awang Abdul Hazim, 18, was the champion for the Memorisation of Six Juzuk (chapters) of Al-Quran at the same competition held in Jordan (year 2006).

Pakistan Flood Disaster Humanitarian Fund established

SUNGAI AKAR, August 16 – A fund known as 'Pakistan Flood Disaster Humanitarian Fund' has been set up where it would provide members of the community in this country a platform to donate in the bid to assist the flood victims.

In relations to this, a committee has been established that is the Committee of Pakistan Flood Disaster Humanitarian Fund jointly chaired by Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The fund would be opened for public donation for a period of two months from August 16 to October 15, 2010. The donation boxes would be placed at various places like mosques and suraus, banks, shopping complexes and government buildings.



PHOTO: AJWAH HAJI AHAD

The Committee of Pakistan Flood Disaster Humanitarian Fund jointly chaired by Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Brunei's *Qariah* First Runner-Up

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 9 – Brunei's *Qariah* (female reader), Dayang Nurfaezah binti Haji Emran was announced as the first runner-up winner at the 52nd International Musabqah Tilawah Al-Quran held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from July 28 to August 3.

A thanksgiving ceremony was held by Ministry of Finance to celebrate her achievement. Dayang Nurfaezah is one of the officers working at the BAG Network under the ministry.

Meanwhile, the *Qari* (male reader), Awangku Mohd. Adibul Amin bin Pengiran Haji Marjuki was on the fifth position.

49th AALCO

TANZANIA, August 11 – Brunei Darussalam's Attorney General, The Honourable Datin Paduka Hajah Hayati with officers from the Attorney General Chambers, and Relation Officers to Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO) from Brunei Darussalam's High Commission in New Delhi attended the annual session of the 49th AALCO held in Dar es Salaam, the United Republic of Tanzania.

Various issues were discussed at the session which among others included International Law Commission (ILC), climate change, World Trade Organisation (WTO), corruption prevention, and International Criminal Court (ICC).

AALCO was held from August 5 to 8 where it is a government organisation comprised of law experts from Asian and African region. It was formed on November 15, 1956 and Brunei Darussalam became a member since 2003.

ASEAN Army Forces complete English Course

PENANJONG CAMP, August 20 - A total of 20 army officers from two ASEAN countries comprising of 10 officers from The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and 10 officers from the Lao People's Army ended their English Course conducted by the Training Institute of Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

Present at the closing ceremony was the Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), Major General Dato Paduka Awang Haji Aminuddin Ihsan.

The course was held for 28 days which started from July 26 to August 22. It was the first time for the training institute to conduct this course which is one of the ways to enhance understanding, relationship and cooperation in the field of defence with ASEAN countries.

Briefing promote awareness on Dengue

TUTONG, August 24 – Members of the public were advised to eradicate places with the potential for mosquito breeding. This would indirectly assist in controlling for the mosquitoes to breed from one place to another.

The matters were highlighted by Health Inspector at Tutong Health Office, Awang Salam bin Keram at a briefing on Dengue Fever and Environment Cleanliness held at the Seri Kenangan Hall, Community Hall Complex.

He also said that the main cause of mosquito breeding was caused by the availability and suitable place for this vector to shelter and breed naturally. This is caused by human's own action who neglects cleanliness, health and safety.

Among the causes for the occurrence of Aedes mosquito to breed are through unattended garbage, improper sewage system, the surroundings of a home that contains water such as in pots, boats and tyres.

Present at the briefing was the Acting Tutong District Officer, Awang Haji Mohammad Suffian bin Haji Bungsu.

This purpose of the briefing was to provide exposure to the public on the importance of environmental conservation and to be more aware about dengue.

Artists Art Gallery

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 29 – An Art Gallery was launched where it is hoped that it would educate and raise the awareness of the public on the importance of art as a culture. Its launching also marked the recognition given to local artists to actively paint every Saturday and Sunday at the complex.

Present to officially launched the Brunei Young Artists Art Gallery at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Complex was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim as the Royal Patron of Brunei Art Forum.

The Brunei Young Artists Art Gallery was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports with cooperation from Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Complex; the Brunei Art Forum and Fifth Generation Artists, G5. Its main purpose is to expose the existence of young and veteran local artists as well as highlighting local paintings which in reality are of high quality.

The launching of the Art Gallery at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Complex aimed to make the complex as a venue of Art Gallery Centre similar to Bayswater Road in London, Barcelona Art Street in Spain and Central Market in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

SNAPSHOT



Tadarus is the reading of Al-Quran conducted especially during the month of Ramadan and it will end with a Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony.



Zakat or lithe is compulsory to be implemented by Muslims who fits the specific criteria. It is carried out in the month of Ramadan.