



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

newsletter

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HM: Youths as welfare heroes

BERAKAS, October 6 – Youths or young people, nowadays, are often linked to moral and social problems. This is humiliating as if the youths or young people are virus to the community compared to youths in the past who were seen as welfare heroes. Thus, shouldn't the youths or young people be injected to get rid of the virus label and change it with 'welfare heroes'?

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a *titah* (royal speech) at the closing and prize presentation ceremony for the 5th Southeast Asian Youth Quran Reading Competition 1432/2011. The event took place at the International Convention Centre.

"In my opinion, the time has come for a change to improve the youths or young people's perspective: from being regarded as social virus bearers and spreaders to social curers and panacea," said His Majesty.

His Majesty pointed that in order to change the negative perspective regarding youths or young people, efforts must be made, and if they already exist, it is better for the government and non-government agencies to continue the efforts in making the youths as the society's agent that manage to overcome the problems and not creating them.

His Majesty continued on what are the ways to produce the youths such as those of the past? Are the ways the same as we are producing goods? The answer is certainly not at all. To produce good youths require a special mechanism which is sourced from the teachings of Al-Quran that is to make them to be loyal and do pious acts. If this happens,



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

"Efforts must be made in order to change the negative perspective regarding youths or young people," said His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* at the closing and prize presentation ceremony for the 5th Southeast Asian Youth Quran Reading Competition 1432/2011.

* continue on page 4

Brunei reiterates commitment fight against transnational crime

BALI, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, October 13 - Brunei Darussalam reiterated unwavering commitment to cooperate with ASEAN countries and dialogue partners to reaffirm cooperation in the joint force against transnational crime.

The country's commitment was expressed by Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Haji Awang Halbi as the Head of Brunei Darussalam delegation at the 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC).

At the meeting, the minister also outlined the latest development implemented by the Royal Brunei Police Force which includes the establishment of Special Unit in handling human trafficking issues and

the legislation of International Transfer of Prisoner Order 2011 and Anti-Terrorism Order 2011.

The 8th AMMTC was officiated by His Excellency Professor Dr. Boediono, Vice President of Republic of Indonesia and chaired by His Excellency General Police Timur Pradopo, Indonesia Police Chief.

The meeting was followed by the 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) + 3 (China, Japan and Korea) on Transnational Crime (TC) which started on October 9 and ended on October 13; and also the 2nd AMMTC + China.

On May 27, 2011, the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism took effect after Brunei Darussalam became the sixth ASEAN countries to ratify the convention on April 28,

2011.

In the joint statement, the ASEAN ministers expressed satisfaction on the productive discussions on the issues and the achievement under the jurisdiction of the various bodies responsible for dealing with transnational crime, including work programme and action plan.

Meanwhile in the 2nd AMMTC + China, the ministers discussed and adopted the Action Plan of Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN countries and China in cooperation on non-traditional security issues.

The next AMMTC will be held at Lao People's Democratic Republic in November 2013.



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6 His Majesty graces Baram Regatta, Marudi 2011



7 HM: Enforce 'Islamic Criminal Law Act' immediately



8 First Mushaf written by local



9 CHOGM 2011: His Majesty attends opening ceremony



10 Her Majesty receives 'Khat 40 Doa Rabbana in Al-Quran'



8 18th Civil Service Day
HRH: Civil service must be equipped, realise Brunei Vision 2035



9 His Royal Highness presents golf prizes



10 Toyota Classic 2011 raised \$80,000



11 His Royal Highness attends Opening Ceremony of the 10th ACD



13 Brunei in Red Bull Tri-Nations Cup 2011

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at the Istana Nurul from:



The Deputy Chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and President of All China Federation of Industry and Commerce, His Excellency Huang Mengfu on October 10.



The Chairman Joint Chiefs-of-Staff Committee, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency General Khalid Shameen Wyne on October 25.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented diplomatic credentials at the Istana Nurul Iman to:



- ❶ His Excellency Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan Colonel (Rtd.) Dato Paduka Haji Abdur Rahmani, the newly-appointed Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on October 22.
- ❷ His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Mahdi, the newly-appointed Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Arab Republic of Egypt on October 22.
- ❸ His Excellency Pengiran Kasmirhan, the newly-appointed Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations Association in Geneva, Swiss Confederation (Switzerland) on October 22.

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



① His Excellency Apichart Phetcharatana, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam on October 22.

② His Excellency Dr. Bernd Max Morast, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam on October 22.

③ His Excellency Choi Byung-Koo, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam on October 22.

④ His Excellency Chhay Sokhan, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam on October 22.

PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

* continue from front page
(HM: Youths as welfare heroes)

then they can be regarded as an ideal and an excellent youth. Because of this, it is suggested that youths must be close to Al-Quran frequently, read it often to obtain blessings and rewards as promised. Do not separate yourself from the Al-Quran, bring it where ever as if during travelling; to be as a companion during the quiet time and loneliness.

His Majesty said that ASEAN youths have the responsibility of giving a true picture of Islam to the outside world. Youths also have a role to exalt the good image of Islam as well as

protect it from irresponsible elements.

His Majesty said that the gathering of youths through the Al-Quran reading competition signifies the solidarity of the Muslim communities (ummah) and regional cooperation. The gathering also should be made as a platform in embedding the understanding to the international community that Islam is a religion of universal unity and peace.

5th Southeast Asian Youth Al-Qur'an Reading Competition Prize Presentation



Awangku Md. Amirul Aiman bin Pengiran Haji Marzuki receives a trophy from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

BERAKAS, October 6 - The Southeast Asian Youth Al-Qur'an Reading Competition 1432 Hijrah/ 2011 Masihi was held for three consecutive days at the International Convention Centre.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented the prizes to the champion of male and female readers' categories.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Crown

Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Emerging as champion for the male reader (qari) category was Brunei Darussalam's qari, Awangku Md. Amirul Aiman bin Pengiran Haji Marzuki. Meanwhile the female reader (qariah) category was won by Siti Husnaa binti Hassan from Malaysia.

Both champions received a challenge trophy, a replica trophy, a consolation prize, a certificate and cash prize of \$5000 respectively.

The second place in qari category was Awang Haji Nasrul Fakhri bin Haji Yahya also from Brunei Darussalam and Jirayut Nimnuan from Thailand was placed third.

Meanwhile, Dayangku Fauziah Nadhirah binti Pengiran Haji Jofri was placed second and in third place was Dayang Maizatun Nadzeerah binti Haji Md. Daud. Both are from Brunei Darussalam.

Fifteen youths from eight Southeast Asian countries participated in this year's competition which is the fifth of its kind, with the first held in 2000. Through such an event, it is hoped that the ASEAN youths can embed a sense of friendship and brotherhood also cooperation among themselves. It is also aimed at improving their reading and understanding of the Holy Verses apart from enriching their knowledge and exchanging views on the teachings of the Al-Quran.

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

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

PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN



The 18-member delegation consisted of the spouse of the ambassadors and high commissioners to Brunei Darussalam led by the spouse of High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam, Madam Pei-fen Koh. During the audience, the delegation conveyed their greetings to Her Majesty on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday on October 8.



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

The spouse of the Chairman Joint Chiefs-of-Staff Committee, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Madam Attiya Nazli Wyne on October 25.

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

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



His Excellency Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan (Rtd.) Colonel Dato Paduka Haji Abdur Rahmani, the newly-appointed Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Mahdi, the newly-appointed Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Arab Republic of Egypt; and His Excellency Pengiran Kasmirhan, the newly-appointed Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations Association in Geneva, Switzerland.

The audience took place at Qashr Al-Meezaan on October 31.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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

- ❶ His Excellency Christian Wulff, the President of Federal Republic of Germany and Her Excellency Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany in conjunction with the Anniversary Day of German Unity on October 2.
- ❷ His Excellency Lee Myung-Bak, the President of Republic of Korea in conjunction with the republic's National Foundation Day on October 2.
- ❸ His Excellency Awn Shawat Al-Khasawneh on the occasion of His Excellency's recent appointment as the Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on October 28.
- ❹ His Royal Highness Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on his appointment as the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia on October 30.

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

- ❶ His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the King of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Prime Minister of Thailand, Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra and the Government and the people of Thailand on the loss of lives and damages to the property caused by floods in several provinces of the Kingdom of Thailand on October 11.
- ❷ His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, the King of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen and the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia following on the loss of lives and damages to the property caused by floods in several provinces of the Kingdom of Cambodia on October 11.
- ❸ The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, following the recent passing away of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud, The Crown Prince on October 22.

His Majesty graces Baram Regatta, Marudi 2011



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam launches the Baram Regatta, Marudi 2011.

MARUDI, SARAWAK, October 2 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to grace the Baram Regatta, Marudi 2011 at Marudi in Sarawak, Malaysia.

The visit by His Majesty to Marudi in Sarawak was at the invitation of Yang Di-Pertua of Negeri Sarawak, His Excellency Tun Datuk Patinggi Abang Haji Muhammad Salahuddin bin Abang Barieng to become the Guest-of-Honour at the Baram Regatta, Marudi 2011.

The Baram Regatta Festival is an important event in the celebration calendar in Sarawak. It has also become the main festival held once every three

years in attracting more tourists, besides as an effort to unite various tribes and communities in Sarawak.

His Majesty also presented the trophy, donated by His Majesty to the winner of the Unlimited Male Category B and the Challenge Trophy 'Piala Charles Hose', to the overall Baram Regatta, Marudi 2011 winner.

Accompanying His Majesty were the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman; and the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Colonel (Rtd.) Dato Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin.

More citizens receive keys to new homes

SERIA, October 8 - More than 400 recipients received keys to their detached and terrace housing units under the National Housing Schemes in Lumut, Sungai Liang and Panaga in the Belait District.

Present at the ceremony to personally hand over the keys to the recipients was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The presentation ceremony took place at Dewan Pusat Insani, Seria in the Belait District.

Soon after the presentation of the

house keys, His Majesty took a closer look at the Dewan Pusat Insani. The centre was financed by the Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) and now has been handed over to the Belait District Office as BSP's contribution to Seria Town and the Belait District. Located in Jalan Tengah Seria, the centre has a multipurpose hall which can accommodate 1500 people for various functions and is also equipped with various facilities including a gymnasium, aerobic room, an administration office and a golf course simulator.

His Majesty also visited a number of recipients' houses at the Sungai Liang Lumut; Lumut Primary School; and Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkihah Secondary School in Sungai Tali, Lumut.

The provision of houses by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the various National Housing Schemes reflects His Majesty as a leader who is concern about his citizens' and residents' welfare and harmony.

HM: Syariah and Civil legal systems can run concurrently



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* (royal speech) at the Brunei Islamic Religious Council (MUIB) special meeting.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a *titah* (royal speech) at the Brunei Islamic Religious Council (MUIB) special meeting held at the State Legislative Council Building at Jalan Kebangsaan in Berakas.

His Majesty asserted that law is a pure knowledge and system that is most beautiful and should be favoured when understood. On the contrary, it will appear bad and hateful when it is not understood, such as in the case of the Islamic Criminal Act where it is most beautiful and the best if the people understand it.

"Why should it not be the most beautiful and the best since it comes from Allah The Almighty. Its creator is Allah The Almighty and not humans. The law of Allah The Almighty is rational, but since people do not want to understand it, thus, law is seen as bad and fearful," said His Majesty.

His Majesty said that since a courthouse already stands imposingly prominent, there are also many intelligent people and the country is already independent, so what is there to wait for? Syarie (Islamic court) judges are also numerous headed by the Chief Syarie Court Judge. They are

all qualified, compared in the 1950s until 1960s eras when *Pehin-pehin Khatib* also became as the judges or sat with the judges.

His Majesty had spoken on the July 15, 1996 in conjunction with His Majesty's 50th birthday anniversary about the establishing of the Islamic court up to its highest level in handling not only the family laws administration, but also at a suitable and reasonable times to carry out an Islamic Criminal Act.

"Now 15 years have passed by since that *titah*, but there are still people who say that there are not ready; not able; still more matters to be done; preparation is still not adequate and more time is required like eight or five years; and so on.

When the eight or five years are up, there will be people who will say wait for another eight or five years more. Hence, if this is how the situation is, then until when will the date end to be mentioned? Do we still look at ourselves as in the 1950s or 1960s era?" said His Majesty.

His Majesty in his *titah* also gave a full mandate, especially to all

* continue on page 7

HM: Enforce 'Islamic Criminal Law Act' immediately

JERUDONG, October 12 – A call was made for the 'Islamic Criminal Law Act' to be established and enforced, receiving serious and immediate attention. We cannot say 'no' or 'wait a minute' as we have the ability and power to implement the act sufficiently. It is not appropriate if there are still saying 'no' or 'wait a minute'. Who are we in the presence of Allah The Almighty to say 'no' or 'wait a minute' when the laws are not newly legislated, but have been stipulated in the Al-Qur'an and *hadiths* since more than 1400 years ago.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a *titah* (royal speech) at the opening of the International Seminar on Islamic Laws year 1431 Hijrah corresponding to 2011 Masihi with the theme: 'Towards Implementing Syariah Laws'. Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; and His Royal Highness Prince

'Abdul Malik.

Without any hesitation, His Majesty wants to see an Islamic Criminal Law Act to be established and implemented in the country, while not denouncing the conventional laws, which will also be continued to be adopted. This means that an Islamic Criminal Act is needed, whilst at the same time the conventional Civil Law Act is also not sidelined.

In his *titah*, His Majesty was delighted with the existence of cooperation between the Islamic Law and the Civil Law agencies. The monarch expressed that the cooperation should be continued.

The three-day seminar is held at the Brunei International Defence Exhibition and Conference (BRIDEX). The presentations of working papers were delivered by Islamic law experts from Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Majesty calls for an establishment and enforces of the 'Islamic Criminal Law Act' at the opening of the International Seminar on Islamic Laws year 1431 Hijrah.

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Australia.

The seminar is participated by some 500 people comprised of 400 local participants who are legislators and law practitioners, government officers, academicians and students of higher learning as well as the members of the public.

'The Chancellor Scholar' introduced



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

His Majesty graces a celebration to commemorate UBD's 25th anniversary of its establishment.

TUNGKU, October 15 - 'The Chancellor Scholar' is introduced towards encouraging potential locals to become calibre academic staffs. 'The Chancellor Scholar' is a prestigious and competitive scholarship which is opened for local citizens to join courses offered at renowned academic institutions overseas where they will

return to work for Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) as a member of the academia.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a *titah* (royal speech) at a celebration to commemorate UBD's 25th anniversary of its establishment.

Prior to, the monarch noted that at the moment, most of senior lecturers of UBD are from other countries. His Majesty said this is a little disappointing and questioned where are the locals? Are they not capable to occupy these positions?

His Majesty also pointed out that the time has come for UBD to connect with all its alumni with the hope that they can contribute whatever they can to the university and the society at large. His Majesty said, in the 25 years of its establishment, UBD has undergone many changes and developments. His Majesty described its establishment as a milestone or the achievement of great pride.

The highlight of 25th anniversary celebration of Universiti Brunei Darussalam was the presentation of Excellence Awards to eight recipients. The recipients received a plaque and \$3000 each.

His Majesty also presented

appreciation awards to UBD's former Vice Chancellors.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Dr. Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, who is the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam; Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

His Majesty later took a closer look at the presentations and exhibition of the progress since 25 years of UBD's establishment.

His Majesty also visited the UBD-IBM Centre. Jointly established by UBD and the International Business Machines (IBM), it was set up for collaboration in the regional weather climatic research model. The centre will conduct studies on the effect of climate changes on flood forecasts, crop yields, renewable energy and green forests.

* continue from page 6

(HM: Syariah and Civil legal systems can run concurrently)

agencies or institutions connected to the Ministry of Religious Affairs; the Islamic Religious Council; the Judiciary Department including the Attorney Generals Chambers; the *Syariah* Court Department; and all other agencies to

cooperate in tackling the matter that related to the Islamic and Civil Laws collectively and sincerely in the name of Allah The Almighty.

His Majesty said the cooperation of all parties is essential in all matters and aspects. From the country's

legislation and judicial aspects, we had established a State Judicial Department on May 2002, and this was followed by the alignment of the administration for both *Syariah* and Civil Courts, which were enforced since July 2002.