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Brunei-Singapore treasure strong ties

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 29
– The Republic of Singapore and Brunei Darussalam enjoy a long-standing close ties since 1960s.

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 said in his *titah* (royal speech) at the state banquet in Istana Nurul Iman.

The banquet was hosted in honour of the official visit of His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam.

This excellent relation was established by our then leaders, His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew and Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien. His Majesty expressed appreciation to Singapore for the cooperation in the fields of health, defence, trade, education, culture and sports exchange.

Continue on page 12



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) during a banquet hosted in honour of the official visit of His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong to Brunei Darussalam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore.

His Majesty attends 1st Asian Cooperation Dialogue Summit

KUWAIT CITY, October 16 – The most effective way in preparing the people of a nation in facing and confronting the challenges of the modern world is through education, particularly among the youths as they are the future generation who will succeed Asia's potential.

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 said in a *titah* (royal speech) at the 1st Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit's closed session meeting held at Bayan Palace.

"It is crucial to constantly review the education curriculum so they meet the need and demand of the modern era. In addition, it increases the opportunities of interaction between youths throughout Asia.

Continue on page 10



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 attending 1st Asian Cooperation Dialogue Summit.



3. His Majesty receives audiences



4. His Majesty receives credentials



6. Her Majesty receives audiences



7. Governor-General of Australia begins three-day state visit



8. National Youth Day Celebration



9. Diplomatic Corps organises get-together reception



10. Upgrade teaching quality through professional development programmes



11. Aidiladha: Call for temporary closure of business premises during Friday prayer



13. His Majesty's morning walk with Prime Minister Lee



14. Her Majesty attends Girl Guides Day 2012 celebration



15. Charity Golf Tournament to raise fund



16. Crown Prince hosts lunch for Singapore's Prime Minister



OCTOBER 2012 - VOLUME 27 ISSUE 10

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His Majesty receives audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Nations' Delegation Leaders that attended the 5th East Asia Ministerial Forum on Families (EAMFF) on October 2.



His Excellency Thura Thet Oo Maung, Out-going Ambassador Republic of the Union of Myanmar on October 2.



His Excellency Somanahalli Mallaiah Krishna, Minister of External Affairs of India on October 20.



His Excellency Mohamed Bakri Ben Abdoufatah Charif, Minister of External Relations and Cooperation of the Union of the Comoros on October 20.

His Majesty receives credentials



His Excellency Abdul Samad Samad, newly-appointed Ambassador Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



His Excellency Georgios Veis, newly-appointed Ambassador Hellenic Republic (Greece) to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



His Excellency Samori An'gwa Okwiya, newly-appointed High Commissioner of Republic of Kenya to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



His Excellency David Gregory Pine, newly-appointed High Commissioner of New Zealand to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



His Excellency Bello Shehu Ringim, newly-appointed High Commissioner of Federal Republic of Nigeria to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



Her Excellency Dr. Amal Mussa Hussain newly-appointed Ambassador Republic of Iraq, on October 4.



His Excellency Thomas Smetanka, newly-appointed Ambassador of Czech to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



His Excellency Ruben Perez Valdes newly-appointed Ambassador Republic of Cuba, on October 4.

Continue on page 5

From page 4



His Excellency Dr. Mohammed B.Fofana, newly-appointed High Commissioner Republic of Sierra Leone to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



Her Excellency Ferial Ismail Ashraff, newly-appointed High Commissioner Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



His Excellency Thomas Kupfer, newly-appointed Ambassador of Switzerland to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



Her Excellency Berit Basse, newly-appointed Ambassador of Denmark to Brunei Darussalam to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



His Excellency Dr. Rodrigo Querubin Londono, newly-appointed Ambassador Republic of Colombia to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



His Excellency Christian Rehren, newly-appointed Ambassador Republic of Chile to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



His Excellency Ibrahim Katchallou Mohamed, newly-appointed High Commissioner Republic of Niger to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



Her Excellency Banzragch Delgermaa, newly-appointed Ambassador of Mongolia to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.

Continue on page 6



His Excellency Matti Johannes Pullinen, newly-appointed Ambassador of Finland to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



His Excellency Mansa Ountana, newly-appointed Ambassador of Burkina Faso to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.

Her Majesty receives audiences

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



His Excellency Georgios Veis, newly-appointed Ambassador Hellenic Republic (Greece) to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



His Excellency Samori An'gwa Okwiya, newly-appointed High Commissioner of Republic of Kenya to Brunei Darussalam on October 4.



The spouse of the Ambassadors and High Commissioners to Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman on October 8.

Governor-General of Australia begins three-day state visit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 4 - The Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, was on an official state visit to Brunei Darussalam from October 2 to 4. Accompanying Her Excellency was her husband, His Excellency Michael Bryce. Her Excellency was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah Bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Communications.



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, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, the Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce and her husband, His Excellency Michael Bryce at the official Welcoming Ceremony at the Istana Nurul Iman.

In the official welcoming ceremony at the Istana Nurul Iman, Their Excellencies were greeted by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam.

Continue on page 8

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages on October 3 to:

- Lee Myung-Bak, President of the Republic of Korea, as well as the Government and people of the Republic of Korea on the occasion of the National Foundation Day of the Republic of Korea.
- Joachim Gauck, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Germany on the occasion of Germany's Reunification Day.

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 received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezan from:



His Excellency Thura Thet Oo Maung, the out-going Ambassador of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on October 8.



His Excellency Roland Christian Grafe, newly-appointed Ambassador of Federation of German to Brunei Darussalam on October 15.



His Excellency Mohammed Abdul Hye, newly-appointed High Commissioner of People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam on October 15.



His Excellency Todd Mercer, newly-appointed High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam on October 22.



Their Excellencies at a State Banquet held in honour of state visit of the Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce to Brunei Darussalam.

From page 7

An audience was later held at the Cheradi Laila Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Later in the evening, Their Excellencies attended a State Banquet in honour of Her Excellency's state visit. In a *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty said that Brunei Darussalam and Australia enjoy a warm friendship and close cooperation in the fields of education, military training, economy and trade, as well as science and technology.

In Her Excellency's speech, Her Excellency expressed confidence that the bonds of friendship between the two countries will strengthen and continue to develop and expand.

Before ending her three-day state visit, Her Excellency discussed women's issues in a meeting with the representatives from women's associations; and visited the Kampong Ayer Cultural & Tourism Gallery and



His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) during a State Banquet in honour of Their Excellencies State Visit.

residence of Penghulu of Mukim Tamoi. In a separate itinerary, His Excellency Michael Byrce visited Sultan Haji Hassanalk Bolkiah Islamic Exhibition Gallery, Darul Lifta, State's Mufti Office and viewed His Majesty's personal

collection of Islamic art, including Al-Quran and historical manuscripts.

Brunei Darussalam has established diplomatic relations with Australia since 1984.

National Youth Day Celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 6 - It is vital for the youth to possess high self-resilience to prevent bad elements as a result of globalisation as they are the trusted shield.

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 said in a *titah* (royal speech) at the 7th National Youth Day 2012 celebration. The event took place at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex, Berakas.

In his *titah*, His Majesty underscored Brunei Darussalam's firm stance over the anti-Islam film entitled 'Innocence of Muslims', which condemns Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). This uncivilised and irresponsible act should not be seen as the right to freedom of speech.

Continue on page 9



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 the Excellent Youth Award to Awangku Adibul Amin bin Pengiran Merzuki.

From page 8

The highlight of the celebration was the Youth Award presentation as recognition of youth's contribution and their excellent performance. His Majesty consented to present The Meritorious Youth Leader Award to Dato Paduka Awang Haji Sumadi bin Sukaimi. Meanwhile, Mukim Bokok Youth Association from Temburong District is the recipient of the Youth Association Award 2012. The Excellent Youth Award went to Awangku Adibul Amin bin Pengiran Merzuki.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The theme for this year's celebration is 'Belia Syumul Harapan Negara' (Comprehensive youth is the hope of the nation). The National Youth Day falls on every August 1.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam touring the Mini Youth Creative Industry Exhibition in conjunction with the 7th National Youth Day 2012 celebration.

Diplomatic Corps organises get-together reception



Their Majesties and members of the Royal Family in a group photo with Brunei-based Heads of Diplomatic Missions.

JERUDONG, October 9 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to attend the Diplomatic Corps get-together reception hosted by the Heads of Diplomatic Mission accredited to Brunei Darussalam.

The reception was held at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club, Jerudong.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji

Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibul Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

His Excellency Mohamad Jameel Abdul Jameel Hashim, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam later presented a *pesambah* (token of appreciation) to Their Majesties.

Upgrade teaching quality through professional development programmes

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 11 - In line with the needs for the implementation of national education system, the government is determined to provide assistance to teachers in formal private schools to upgrade the quality of teaching and learning through professional development programmes.

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 said in a *titah* (royal speech) at the 90th Founding Anniversary of Chung Hwa Middle School. A true patriot, irrespective of their ethnic background or citizenship, is the one who is always transparent and loyal to his or her country.

His Majesty consented to attend anniversary celebration which was held at the Darussalam Hall, Chung Hwa Middle school. Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

"As students, their goal is to study for



His Majesty touring the exhibition at Pehin Temenggong Dato Lim Teck Hoo building and the kindergarten.

Brunei. When they have succeeded, their goal is still intended for Brunei, then they are categorised as true patriots. They should not betray by migrating to other places for employment," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also reminded all citizens of Brunei Darussalam to be grateful that the government is capable to grant wishes,

particularly in fulfilling the necessities of education; hence they should have no doubt about it.

His Majesty consented to present long service awards to 57 board of directors, teachers and staff. Subsequently, His Majesty and the entourage toured the exhibition at Pehin Temenggong Dato Lim Teck Hoo building and the kindergarten.

National Youth Day Celebration



His Majesty in a group photo with Head of States and Head of Government from 31 member countries.

From page 1

This is the uniqueness and importance of ACD's role which offers best opportunity to consolidate all the thoughts and ideas that were aspired over the decades," said His Majesty.

His Majesty said this dialogue enables leaders to share views, create an understanding and share experiences on global, finance and economic difficulties; priority on social development; and aspects of challenges on today's security.

Continue on page 11



Opening Session of 1st Asian Cooperation Dialogue Summit.

From page 10

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabar Al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, inaugurated the Official Opening Ceremony of the ACD Summit at the Al-Tahrir Convention Building, Bayan Palace.

Head of States and Head of Government from 31 member countries gathered in the Summit to strengthen cooperation, particularly in the areas of agriculture, natural resources, industrialisation, health, education, food security, energy, natural disasters and poverty eradication.

Aidiladha: Call for temporary closure of business premises during Friday prayer

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 26 - A call was made for the temporary closure of business establishments during Friday prayer.

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 said this matter in a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha 1433 Hijrah celebration.

According to His Majesty, this will stop the youngsters from loitering at shopping centres or street corners, whereas most Muslims are already in or on the way to the mosque.

His Majesty expressed his hope for relevant authorities to take necessary action and handle this matter without delay. If this matter is neglected, will it not affect the image of the country and Islam itself?

This is a necessary measure and complies with *syarak's* requirements. *Syarak* requires us to answer the call for Friday prayer and leave trade as stated in the Al-Qur'an Surah Al-Jumu'ah, verses 9 and 10.



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 *korban* meat to one for the recipients.

The temporary closure of commercial premises will definitely benefit everyone as well as strengthening our Islamic image as a Malay Islamic Monarchy country and a *Zikir* Nation.

His Majesty and members of the Royal Family began this year's Hari Raya

Aidiladha Celebration with the performing of *Sunat Hari Raya Aidiladha* prayer at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah in Kampung Kiarong. This was followed by the *korban* (sacrifice) of 14 goats and 52 cows which was then distributed to 2,675 destitutes who have the rights to obtain the sacrificial meat.

His Majesty meets Singapore Prime Minister

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 29 – His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha yesterday afternoon consented to grant an audience to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong and his wife, Mrs Lee Hsien Loong, who are in the Sultanate for a three-day official visit.

The general audience took place at the Cheradi Laila Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present at the general audience were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Marna,



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei and His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam during the audience ceremony at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; as well as other members of the royal family.

The Singapore delegation includes Grace Fu Hai Yien, Minister (Prime Minister's Office), who is also the Second Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs; Chan Chun Sung, Acting Minister for Community Development,

Youth and Sports who is also Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence; and Jaya Ratnam, High Commissioner of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam and spouse, Mrs Sujatha Ratnam.

After the audience, His Majesty held a four-eye meeting with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the Cheradi Ratna Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Brunei - Singapore treasure strong ties

From page 1

"Globalisation brings about challenges and changes. Nevertheless, it is hoped that the security of both nations is not jeopardised by globalisation," His Majesty added.

His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong in his speech, stressed again the strong ties between both countries. His Excellency said our forefathers identified our weaknesses being small countries and British protectorate. They strived to improve the future of Singapore and Brunei Darussalam where in the process they had strengthened the warm and mutually beneficial relationship.

Both His Majesty and His Excellency reaffirmed the importance of the Currency Interchangeability Agreement, which was signed 45 years ago, in facilitating trade, investment and tourism between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore. They welcomed the proposal for the Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam and the Monetary Authority of Singapore to hold bilateral meetings to discuss monetary and financial issues and areas of mutual interest.



His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore inspecting the Guard of Honour mounted by Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

While in Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency had an audience and a meeting with His Majesty in the Istana Nurul Iman. His Excellency was accompanied by his spouse, Madam Ho Ching as well as Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and

Sports; Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Environment and Water Resources. His Excellency was on a three-day official visit to Brunei Darussalam at the invitation of His Majesty.

His Majesty's morning walk with Prime Minister Lee



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei and His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore walking at the Tasek Lama Recreational Park. Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 30 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei hosted a morning walk and breakfast for His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore at the Tasek Lama Recreational Park in conjunction with his visit to the country.

Also in attendance were His Royal

Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Upon arriving at the entrance of the recreational park, Prime Minister Lee was greeted personally by His Majesty, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

Prime Minister Lee was accompanied by members of the Singapore delegation.

The activity began with a light warmup session facilitated by officials from the Sports Medicine Centre, Department of Youth and Sports.

The warmup session was joined by His Majesty, Prime Minister Lee, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah. Also taking part were the Minister of Home Affairs, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and members of the Singapore delegation.

After the warmup session, His Majesty and Prime Minister Lee then went on to start the morning walk, first at the lower ground level of the recreational park, and then up on the steep hill heading towards the tower.

From the top of the tower, His Majesty and Prime Minister Lee watched the rich green scenic view of Brunei Darussalam from a high altitude.

After the morning walk, His Majesty and Prime Minister Lee planted two Selunsur trees together, located near the waterfall at the Tasek Lama Recreational Park.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei and His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore planting Selunsur trees.

Her Majesty attends Girl Guides Day 2012 celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 12 – Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, as the Royal Patron of the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam (PPPBD), attended the Girl Guides Day 2012 celebration.

Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, the President of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna.

Upon arrival at the Sejahtera Hall, Sumbangsih Mulia Buliding, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri and other members of the Royal Family were greeted by Hajah Siti Hafsa binti Haji Abdul Halim, Chief Commissioner of the association and ceremony committee members.

The ceremony commenced with the recital of *Surah Al-Fatihah* and thanksgiving prayers by Hajah Fatimah binti Haji Abdul Ghani, Spiritual Commissioner



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, as the Royal Patron of the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam (PPPBD) presenting the Gold Long Service Badge (20 years), Silver (15 years) and Bronze (10 years) as well as the Girl Guides Day 2012 special awards to selected PPPBD members.

of the Girls Guides Association.

Hajah Siti Hafsa, as the Chairman of the Council convened at the end of 2011 and throughout 2012 where PPPBD members were able to carry out their annual activities well in both local and international level.

Her Majesty presented the Gold Long

Service Badge (20 years), Silver (15 years) and Bronze (10 years) as well as the Girl Guides Day 2012 Special awards to selected PPPBD members.

Her Majesty was also presented with a birthday cake in conjunction with Her Majesty's birthday celebration and a *pesambah* (gift).

Her Majesty attends birthday reception



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam and other members of Royal Family in a group photo with members of the associations.

JERUDONG, October 9 - Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam attended a reception on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Jerudong Park Polo and Riding Club.

Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri

Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Noor Ehsani.

Continue on page 15



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha receiving a *pesambah* from Pengiran Datin Paduka Hajah Mariam binti Pengiran Haji Matarsat as the Chairperson of the Royal Birthday Celebration Committee 2012.

From page 14

The reception was hosted by spouses of cabinet ministers, deputy ministers,

permanent secretaries, deputy permanent secretaries and affiliated members.

On October 30, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha attended a reception on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday celebration at Plenary Hall, International Convention Centre, Berakas.

The event was hosted by the Council of Women of Brunei Darussalam (CWBD), Police Wives and Family Welfare Association (PEKERTI), Brunei Nursing Associations (PENJURU) and the Brunei Shell Ladies Association (BSLA).

Upon arrival, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri was greeted by Pengiran Datin Paduka Hajah Mariam binti Pengiran Haji Matarsat as the Chairperson of the Royal Birthday Celebration Committee 2012.

Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafzah Sururul Bolkiah.

Charity Golf Tournament to raise fund

JERUDONG, October 7 - A charity golf tournament was held with the objective of raising funds for the Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans (DANA).

A total of \$40,500 was collected through this charity tournament.

Present to award the prizes to the winners of this tournament was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

His Royal Highness consented to present prizes to winners of Gross and Nett Categories, Senior Gross and Nett Categories, Under 18 Junior Category, and Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah challenge trophy.

His Royal Highness later received the mock cheque of \$40,500



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office presenting a prize to one of the winners.

and handed it over to Haji Ibrahim bin Haji Ismail, Managing Director of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation.

19th Civil Service Day: Civil service government's core administration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 17 - As the core of government's administration, civil service is responsible for maintaining the welfare of the public. It ought to strive continuously to accomplish development in line with Brunei Vision 2035.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office said in

his *sabda* (royal speech) at the 19th Civil Service Day Celebration held at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Centre, Berakas.

His Royal Highness added that efficient and effective civil service is the country's main priority in order to achieve progress in all fields of importance including the peace and well-being to uphold national stability.

Continue on page 16

From page 15

"Islam as the religion and complete way of life requires every aspect of administration, management, policy formulation and planning as well as implementation to be based on the holy Al-Qur'an and genuine Sunnah. Therefore, as the administrator and manager of an Islamic sovereign nation, we must not overlook this obligation," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness quoted an excerpt of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with His Majesty's 66th birthday anniversary which highlighted the efficiency of management, discipline and leadership in the career of civil service officers are in the state that requires upgrade and attention.

In this regard, His Royal Highness pointed out that integrity and morality, customer orientation, customer friendly attitude, prompt response to the public and readiness to serve are the much sought values in the civil service. Besides, executive officers and heads



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office presenting the award to one of the recipients.

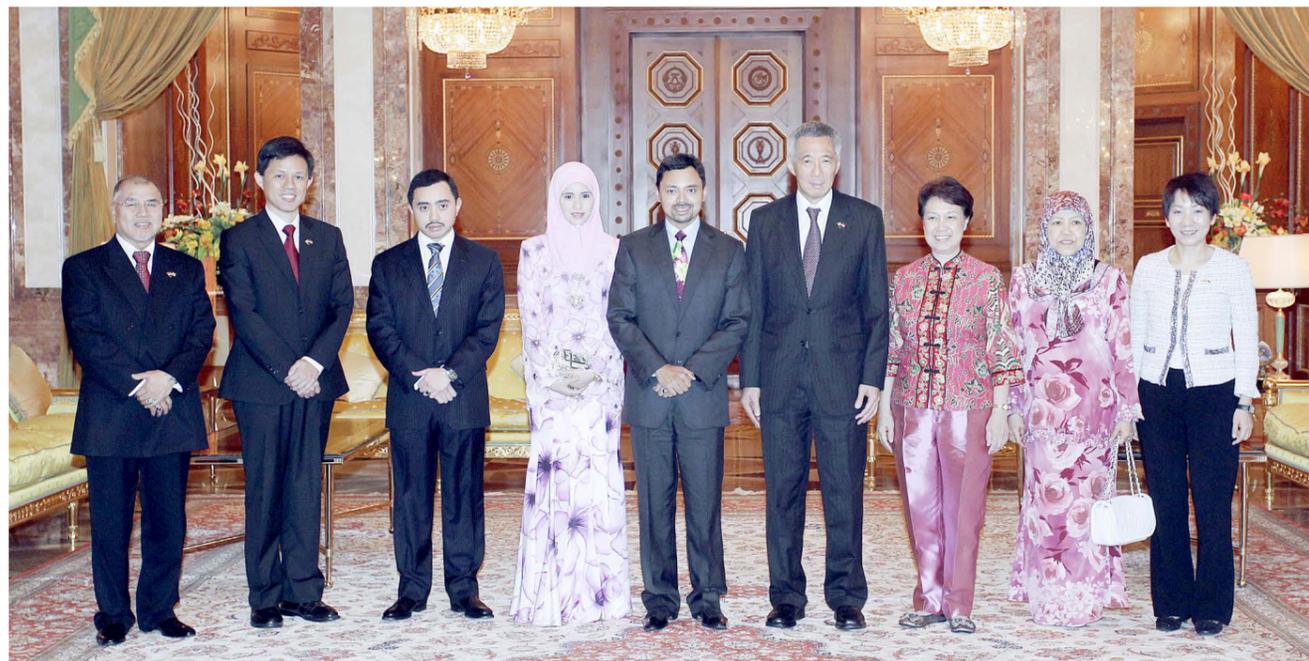
of department are expected to carry out field visits to look into the problems of the public.

In the celebration, His Royal Highness consented to present Excellent Civil Servant Award to 35 recipients, Civil

Service Excellent Award to the winning groups, as well as certificates to retired senior officials.

The theme for 19th Civil Service Day is 'Working together towards achieving Brunei Vision 2035'.

Crown Prince hosts lunch for Singapore's Prime Minister



Their Royal Highnesses in a group photo with His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and spouse.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 30 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah hosted a luncheon ceremony in honour of His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and his wife, Madam Ho Ching.

The ceremony took place at the Qashr Al-Meezaan was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and other members of the

royal family. During the luncheon, Prime Minister Lee reaffirmed the strong historical bonds between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, and discussed with His Royal Highness the Crown Prince ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Also present at the ceremony were the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources as the Minister-in-Attendance and spouse; the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office and spouse; Minister of Foreign Affairs II and Trade and spouse; and the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office and spouse, as well their Singaporean counterparts and their respective spouses.

2nd Mahrajan HafI Al-Takharruj launched

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 31 - His Royal Highness Prince Dr. Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) officially launched the 2nd Mahrajan HafI Al-Takharruj or the 2nd Convocation Festival of UNISSA. The event was held at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Berakas.

Upon launching the festival, His Royal Highness consented to tour the exhibition. A number of scholarly activities were also organised for the event, *jawi* writing and calligraphy competition, and book sales.

The theme for the Mahrajan is 'Al-Qur'an and As-Sunnah are the Core of a Pious Family' (Al-Qur'an dan As-Sunnah Teras Keluarga Bertaqwa). The holy Al-Qur'an and Sunnah Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) are the sources of reference in shaping a devout family institution.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince viewing on one of the exhibited items.

10th National Development Plan: 4 projects inspected

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 20 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, as the Chairman of the Executive Committee visited four projects under the 10th National Development Plan (NDP) (2012-2017).

The four projects under inspection were: 'The Modernisation of the Brunei International Airport'; 'Construction of link road and flyover linking from Old Airport area to Menglait'; 'Renovation of Officers Mess and Banquet Hall of the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF)', and the 'Gadong Police Headquarters Complex'.

The Brunei International Airport will be an iconic international airport which portrays Brunei Darussalam as the Malay Islamic Monarchy nation. The 36-month project is to increase passenger capacity, to construct a new arrival terminal, to upgrade the existing departure terminal, and to construct a separate prayer hall for men and women congregants.

His Royal Highness later headed for the project site of the Construction of the link road and flyover linking from Old Airport to Menglait. This \$8.4 million project aims to reduce the traffic congestion at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkia Highway, from the Government Offices Complex at the Old Airport area, Berakas towards Jalan Menglait.

The next stop for His Royal Highness is the project site of the Renovation



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince taking a closer look at one of the exhibited items.

of Officers Mess of the RBPF in Jalan Gadong and Banquet Hall in Kampong Mata-Mata. This project is to expand the infrastructure of RBPF in line with RBPF's strategic plan. Finally, His Royal Highness visited the new Gadong Police Headquarters Complex project site. The new headquarter will include conference room, cafeteria, lecture hall, multi-purpose hall, library, prayer room, auditorium, lecture room and carpark in early 2013.

The visit of His Royal Highness to the project sites clearly showed His Royal Highness's concerns on the progress and to ensure their implementation are on time. The NDP projects are planned to achieve objectives underlined in the Brunei Vision 2035 in all aspects including economy, education, social welfare and so on. The 10th NDP carries the theme, 'Knowledge and Innovation, Increasing Productivity and Expediting Economic Growth'.

Polio Points Project launched

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 10 - The employees of International School of Brunei (ISB) were encouraged to identify effective mechanism to involve government secondary schools students to participate in the Polio Points Project of ISB.

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah launched the Polio Points Project at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Berakas.

According to Her Royal Highness, not only will the involvement train the students in organise such project but also to raise their awareness on global issues.

The Polio Point project, in collaboration with Standard Chartered Bank, The Global Poverty Project, World Health Organisation, and the United Nations Children's Fund will reward points to students for their hard work. Every four Polio Points will be matched with funds from the Standard Chartered Bank to purchase Polio Vaccines for polio-endemic nations. As a result, eradication of polio will be made possible.

This is in line with the United Nations



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah presenting a token of appreciation to one of the sponsor and supporting the project.

Millennium Development Goal of 'Combating World Diseases', which will be the theme for ISB Borneo Global Issues Conference in 2014.

Also attending the official launch of the ISB Polio Points programme was Datin Paduka Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Her Royal Highness consents to participate CE-ALAF charity run

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 14 - More than 5,000 participants in BIBD's fundraising event of the year, the Charity Expedition for Advocating Life-Long Learning for an Aspiring Future (CE-ALAF) programme.

Participating and supporting the charity run were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman in the 10km Bruneian category.

Also participated was Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkihah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkihah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and other members of royal family.

Five sporting events were opened for the public to participate in the 2.5 kilometer run, 5 kilometer run, 10 kilometer run, 21 kilometer Half Marathon and 53 kilometer Cycling Expeditions.

The inaugural charity expedition aimed to provide opportunities for the participants to play a major part in helping underprivileged children to stay in school. Running and cycling enthusiasts of all ages came together for a single cause, raising money for charity.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman participating during the charity run.

The ALAF Programme, which was initiated by BIBD CSR, aimed to provide opportunities for educational progression to underprivileged students. The charity

expedition, which carried the tagline "One Step, One Pedal, One Education" hoped to inspire people to perform.

Prince Mohamed hosts dinner for Singapore's Prime Minister



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah, His Excellency Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and his wife, Madam Ho Ching at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 30 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah hosted a dinner for His Excellency Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and his wife Madam Ho Ching, at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

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

The Prime Minister is in the country for a three-day official visit.

HRH urges the country contingent sports championship to be accompanied by a medical doctor

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 22 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council, in a *sabda* (royal speech) urged the country contingent sports championship to be accompanied by a medical doctor.

His Royal Highness said, although it was a destiny and it can happen to any contingent, we must learn from past experiences. In this regard, His Royal Highness said that in the future all officers participating in the country contingency especially those with health problems should undergo preliminary examination.

"This is to avoid undesirables things from happening," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness, BDNOC President highlighted this matter in a *sabda* following the Post Mortem meeting for the 3rd Asian Beach Games held in Haiyang, China 2012 and the 30th Olympic Games, London 2012, held at Berakas.

Present at the Post Mortem meeting were Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council during the Post Mortem meeting for the 3rd Asian Beach Games held in Haiyang, China 2012 and the 30th Olympic Games, London 2012, held at Berakas.

Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Hj Hazair bin Hj Abdullah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; and Datin Paduka Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

During the event, His Royal Highness BDNOC President also listened to reports and achievements of the national team at both sports tournaments presented by the Chief-de-Mission and representatives of the participating organisations.

HRH Prince 'Azim pays last respects to late Cambodian King

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA - October 29 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, as the personal representative of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, yesterday joined mourners at the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh, residence of His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, King of the Kingdom of Cambodia, to pay his last respects to the late King Norodom Sihanouk, father of His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni.

Upon arrival at the Royal Palace, His Royal Highness was welcomed by Mr Van Wan, Director of Protocol, Royal Palace.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul Azim conveyed his deepest condolences to Her Royal Highness Princess Arunrasmy, daughter of the late King Norodom Sihanouk, and His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Prey Sophorn, brother of the late King Norodom Sihanouk, at this time of grief.

His Royal Highness then signed the book of condolence.

The late King Norodom Sihanouk ascended the throne in 1941 and led the country's independence in 1953. The late king was an outstanding statesman who brought about much change, promoting stability and development in Cambodia.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim pays a final respect to the late King Norodom Sihanouk.

The late king also contributed to the progress of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He abdicated from the throne in 2004.

King Norodom Sihanouk passed away at the age of 89 on October 15, 2012 while undergoing medical treatment in Beijing, China.

Earlier, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim was greeted on arrival at the Phnom Penh International Airport by Mr Ung Sean, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International

Cooperation, Cambodia and Mr Shaikh Haji Fadilah bin Shaikh Haji Ahmad, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Cambodia.

Accompanying His Royal Highness were Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office and several senior government officers.

His Royal Highness left Phnom Penh in the afternoon after paying his last respects to the late King Norodom Sihanouk.

Princess Masna attends high-tea reception with Women Police



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Commandant of Women Police in a group photo with the Women Police of the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) at Tarindak d'Polo in Jerudong.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 25 - A high-tea reception was held on behalf of the Women Police of the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF), which was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, in her capacity as the Commandant of Women Police, at an event held at Tarindak d'Polo in Jerudong.

Upon arrival, Her Royal Highness was greeted at the venue by

the chairwoman of the ceremony, Superintendent Dinah binti Amat Daud.

The gathering was held with the aim of highlighting the community's appreciation and gratitude towards the Women Police of the Royal Brunei Police Force and Her Royal Highness as their leader to which they can draw inspiration from.

Continue on page 21

From page 20

The event was attended by 220 policewomen, including retired officers such as DCP (Rtd) Hjh Sharifah Salmah binti Dato Syed Hussein AlKaff, SAC (Rtd) Pg Datin Hjh Noralam binti Pg Hj Mahmood, and Datin Paduka Hajah Intan binti Hj Mohd Kassim, who was appointed by Her Royal Highness as the Commissioner of Women's Welfare.

Her Royal Highness, who holds the rank of Senior Officer in the RBPF, signed a piece of parchment prior to consenting for a group photo with those in attendance.

The event was enlivened with a video montage put together by a group of women officers.

Before leaving the event, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna was presented with a *junjung ziarah*.

ASEP7 strengthens cooperation between the Asia - Europe Parliament

VIENTIANE, LAO'S PEPOLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, October 5. - Sustainable development on social and economic issues has been the main focus of the 7th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP) that has been held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The two-days meeting, themed "Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership for Sustainable Development", held on 3 to 4 October.

The meeting was chaired by President of Lao People's Democratic Parliamentary, President of ASEP7, Her Excellency Mrs. Pany Yathotou.

Leading the delegation of Legislative Council of Brunei Darussalam to attend the meeting was Speakers of Legislative Council (LegCo), Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Manteri Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Ibrahim.

Also participating in the meeting were the Clerk to the LegCo,

Deputy Clark to the LegCo, Members of LegCo and officials of the Department of Councils of State.

ASEP7 meeting was officially opened by the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong.

A total of 27 countries, including a number of international organisations such as IMF (International Monetary Fund), UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and UNISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) also attended the meeting. Among the issues discussed at the meeting include food security, Public Debts and Disaster Management being the main agenda of the meeting.

In the meantime, the Speakers of Legislative Council (LegCo) along with other heads of delegations attending the meeting also paid a courtesy call to the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, His Excellency Choummaly Sayasone and Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong.

Brunei to implement CBDRM Programme

JOGJAKARTA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, October 24. - To increase local communities' capacity to respond to disasters, Brunei Darussalam has implemented the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Programme (CBDRM) in which this year has been rolled out to schools to implement the reduction of disaster risk in the education system.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Home Affairs in his official statement at the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction AMCDRR added, the creation of the Disaster Management Committee at the local or regional level has been launched as a platform for managing and coordinating disaster action.

Brunei Darussalam also has prepared the National Standard Operating Procedure (NaSOP) for disaster operations, in addition to issuing the first Strategic National Action Plan-SNAP for disaster risk reduction.

Yang Berhormat stressed, "in this plan of action, community preparedness, mechanisms, disaster response and disaster risk mitigation projects are a priority, in equally share development and achievements of Brunei Darussalam in disaster risk reduction initiatives."

Through his observations from 2010 to 2011, Yang Berhormat also witnessed various disasters that hit the Asia-Pacific region including floods, earthquakes and tsunami.

What can be noted, said Yang Berhormat, is how it affected communities to restart their daily life where their resilience to disasters is something that needs to be absorbed to the public.

In this regard, Yang Berhormat stressed that the role of the local authority is very important in their involvement in reducing the risk of disaster towards creating a resilient society.

The Minister of Home Affairs is in Jogjakarta to lead the Brunei Darussalam delegation at the conference opened by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Tuan Yang Terutama Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Brunei Darussalam delegation comprising of Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dato Paduka Brigadier General (Rtd) Haji Mahmud bin Haji Saidin; Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Awang Roslan bin Haji Taja'ah; Director of National Disaster Management Center (NDMC), Colonel (Rtd.), Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Rosli bin Pengiran Haji Chuchu; Chairman of the Kuala Belait and Seria Municipal Board, Awang Haji Ishak bin Haji Abu Hanifah as well as senior officer from NDMC.

The five-day conference that begins 22 to 25 October, which carries the theme 'Strengthening Local Capacity for Disaster Reduction' was attended by Ministers from the Asia-Pacific region in charge of disaster management affairs in their respective countries.

The Minister of Home Affairs also met with United Nations Secretary-General (UN) Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, Her Excellency Margareta Wahlstrom.

The conference was organised by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia with the support of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction which is usually held at least once every two years. Brunei Darussalam joined the conference in 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Brunei Darussalam hosts the APCCA Conference



Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, the Minister of Home Affairs in a group photo with delegates at the 32nd Asian and Pacific Conference of Correctional Administrators (APCCA).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 8 - Brunei Darussalam through the Prisons Department this year for the first time hosted the 32nd Asian and Pacific Conference of Correctional Administrators (APCCA) from 7 to 12 October, held in Gadong.

More than 130 delegates from 21 Asia Pacific countries attended the conference themed 'Caring and Meaningful Rehabilitation'.

Present to officiate the official opening of the conference was the Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman.

The APCCA 2012 conference included five plenary sessions attended by 137 delegates including senior government officials of the country and prison system administrators from the Asia Pacific countries including academic speakers from 'United Nations Far East Institute on Crime Prevention

(UNAFEI)'.

During the week-long conference, delegates will discuss how strategic partnerships and collaborations with and outside organisations can enhance effective recovery service delivery with case studies from different prison jurisdictions to increase efforts to support the integration or reintegration of offenders as citizens who are productive in their own communities.

Plenary sessions and workshops will also focus on a variety of effective prisoner and women's safety issues in corrections as prison dwellers and prison officers.

Since its inception in 1980, APCCA became an annual event which aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas, technologies and best practices in the profession of recovery among members of a community that is growing in the Asia Pacific region.

Family is the foundation of the country's holistic development

WEDNESDAY, October 2. - Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), Awang Haji Mohd. Rozan bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunos explained the issue of work and family imbalance is a global challenge for a family institution.

He added, based on the rapid development of socioeconomic status in which the number of working mothers and paid in both the public and private sectors have increased.

"The role of full-time mothers and housewives has indeed transformed into a career-oriented mother who contributes to socio-economic development," he said.

This was stated by Permanent Secretary of MCYS during the Official Opening of the 5th East Asia Ministerial Forum on Families – 5th EAMFF held at one of The Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong.

Continue on page 23



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah officiating the 5th East Asia Ministerial Forum on Families (EAMFF).



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah in a group photo with delegates from 13 countries.

From page 22

Although there are changes in the regulations, he added, not all parents can spend their time with their families, such as caring for their children.

"As we work to address these issues, our meetings will also discuss and share our experiences in dealing with issues in balancing family work," he explained.

It is clear that through the 5th EAMFF, it also acts as a channel for us to share our experiences on family issues and generate ideas for establishing partnerships within the East Asian region.

According to him, this is in line with the main goal of the forum to help countries in the region to share experiences in resolving family issues and help those at risk is so high in the matter of family breakdown.

Present as the guest of honour and officiating the opening of the 5th EAMFF was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah. There were 81 delegates of EAMFF ministers and senior officials responsible for the family affairs of 13 countries, including attending a forum in the country.

These countries are Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Timor Leste and ASEAN countries, Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Laos, Malaysia, Republic of Philippine, Republic of Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and Brunei Darussalam as the host country.

Following the official opening ceremony, the leaders of the 5th EAMFF delegation started a closed session forum chaired by Yang Berhormat.

In this forum the head of delegates discussed and exchanged views, information, best practices and experiences on welfare issues and the development of family institution development especially in the East Asian region.

In addition, the leaders of the delegation also approved the draft 'Brunei Darussalam Statement on Ensuring Work Family Balance' which was discussed in the EAMFF 5th Senior Officers Forum.

The EAMFF began in 2004 in Hanoi, Viet Nam with a statement called the Hanoi Statement themed 'For Regional Cooperation on Family Related Matters'.

Meanwhile, in 2006, the 2nd EAMFF was held in the Republic of Singapore with the issuance of the Singapore Statement under the theme 'Building Resilient Families'.

In 2008, the 3rd EAMFF was held in Bali, Republic of Indonesia with the Bali Statement entitled 'Strengthening Collaboration for Programs on Family Resilience'.

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the 4th EAMFF themed 'Safe and Resilient Families: Protecting and Empowering At-Risk and High Risk Families' was held in 2010.

This year's 5th EAMFF theme is 'Ensuring Work Family Balance' which focuses on and discusses a broad range of issues on the role of families such as work and family imbalances that can lead to social, psychological and somatic issues besides reducing productivity at work.

The family is the basic unit of society which plays an important role and be a source of stability, continuity and holistic development of a country.

Forums are held twice a year and will end on October 3, 2012.



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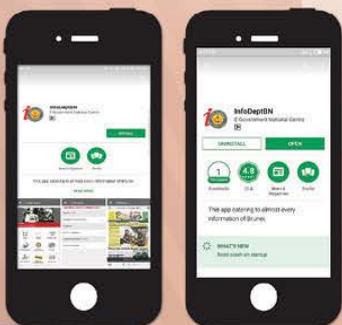
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