



## Islam teaches admirable principles of justice



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* at the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration 1421 Hijrah/2000 Masihi at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

**BERAKAS, December 13** – 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 highlighted in his *titah* (royal speech) that Islam does not only teach its own community, but also the entire humanity; with admirable principles of justice and without differentiating skin colours or societal appearances.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered the *titah* at the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for the year 1421 Hijrah/2000 Masihi at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

It continues to function on the basis of Allah's generosity; that is, *Rahman* (Most Merciful), said His Majesty. No one should be abandoned; instead they should all be protected and cared for regardless of whether or not they are of the same religion.

Continue on page 7

## 'Spirit of Islam' important in defending the *ummah*

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 28** – According to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah bni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, when a person believes in and fears Allah, his entire body and soul will bow, obey and surrender only to Allah.

"This is known as the 'Spirit of Islam', which arises within an individual and gives birth to all kinds of commendable traits such as sincerity, patience, tranquility, istiqamah (steadfastness) integrity,



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* at the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration 1421 Hijrah/2000 Masihi at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

Continue on page 6





DECEMBER 2000 - VOLUME 14 ISSUE 12

# **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER**

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

EMAIL US AT: [info.dept@information.gov.bn](mailto:info.dept@information.gov.bn)

## **EDITORIAL Advisory Board:**

Mawardi Haji Mohammad  
([mawardi.hjmohammad@information.gov.bn](mailto:mawardi.hjmohammad@information.gov.bn))

Sastra Sarini Haji Julaini  
([sarini.julaini@information.gov.bn](mailto:sarini.julaini@information.gov.bn))

## **Editor:**

Dayang Ruhil Amal Faridah Awang Yahya  
([ruhil.yahya@information.gov.bn](mailto:ruhil.yahya@information.gov.bn))

## **Text:**

Syakirah Matusin  
([syakirah.matusin@Information.gov.bn](mailto:syakirah.matusin@Information.gov.bn))

## **Layout:**

Mohd. Arbby Haji A.M Soehine  
([arbby.soehine@information.gov.bn](mailto:arbby.soehine@information.gov.bn))

## **Proofread:**

Azimatul Azimah Siti Rahmat  
([azimah.rahmat@information.gov.bn](mailto:azimah.rahmat@information.gov.bn))

## **Photographs**

Photography Unit of Department of Information

## **General inquiries**

Tel: (673) 2383 400/ext English Publications Unit II

Fax: (673) 2382 012

## **Information Department**

[www.information.gov.bn](http://www.information.gov.bn)

## **Information Gallery**

[www.infofoto.gov.bn](http://www.infofoto.gov.bn)



Follow us  
**InfoDeptBN**



**Instagram** - @infodept.bn



**Twitter** - @Infodept\_bn



**Facebook** - Jabatan Penerangan  
Jabatan Perdana Menteri  
Brunei Darussalam



3 His Majesty receives audience



4 National Level Nuzul Al-Quran celebration



8 Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri prayer and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony



10 Over 47,000 present Hari Raya Aidilfitri greetings



13 AEMM discusses future relations of ASEAN-EU



15 Courtesy calls with Lao PDR, Spain



## We aseb Application




- ASEAN efforts to promote awareness, knowledge and understanding of its programmes and activities in the borderless online world
- To ensure that cultural differences among ASEAN Member States can be shared and exposed within ASEAN Community (Cultural Exchange)
- "One-Stop Facility" that provides information on ASEAN and 10 ASEAN Member States.
- Supports Paperless and Green IT





Project under Sub-Committee of Information (SCI), ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (COCI)

## His Majesty receives audience

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience His Excellency Doug Chester, High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman on December 6.



## His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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

- His Excellency Khamtay Siphandone, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and His Excellency Sisavath Keobounphanh, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the occasion of its National Day on December 2.
- His Excellency George W. Bush, President of United States of America (US) on the occasion of his victory at the US election on December 6.
- His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, Emir of Bahrain and His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Prime Minister of Bahrain on the occasion of Bahrain National Day on December 16.
- His Majesty Emperor Akihito, Emperor of Japan and His Excellency Yoshiro Mori, Prime Minister of Japan on the occasion of His Majesty Emperor Akihito's birthday on December 23.
- His Majesty King Birenda Bir Bikram Shah Dev, King of Nepal and His Excellency The Right Honourable Girja Prasad Koirala, Prime Minister of Nepal on the occasion of His Majesty King Birenda Bir Bikram Shah Dev's birthday anniversary on December 28.

## His Majesty sends message of condolences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send a message of condolences to Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datuk Patinggi Hajah Rosmiati Kendati on the passing of His Excellency Tun Ahmad Zaidi Adruce Mohammed Noor, Yang Di-Pertua of Negeri Sarawak on December 5.



# National Level Nuzul Al-Quran celebration



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; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; 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 Haji 'Abdul Mateen; alongside State Dignitaries at the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration.

**BERAKAS, December 16** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented prizes to the winners of the Al-Quran Memorisation Competition in conjunction with the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration.

The competition was divided into four categories. Under Category 'A', which was won by Thahirah binti Sulaiman from Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit Girls Arabic Religious Secondary School, the participants (who were 12 years of age and below) were required to memorise all the common verses from Surah Al-Fatihah, up to Surah Adh-Dhuha, Surah Al-Ghaasyirah, Surah Al-A'laa, Surah Ath-Thaariq and Surah Al-Buruuj.

Ahmad Zaaim bin Haji Bagol, who was representing Ma'had Islam Brunei, won first-place for Category 'B', which involved the memorisation of Surah Yaasiin, Surah Al-Mulk, Surah Al-Waqiah for participants aged 15 and below.

Mohd. Halidi bin Haji Besar, a student from the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Centre for Islamic Studies won first-place under Category 'C', which involved the memorisation of any one *juz'* out of the first five Quranic *juz'* for all age levels.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting a trophy to Thahirah binti Sulaiman from Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit Girls Arabic Religious Secondary School, who was the winner of the Al-Quran Memorisation Competition under Category 'A'.

Category 'D', which required the participants to memorise the first to the tenth *juz'* under Categories 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D', was won by Mohd. Saufi bin Haji Zulkifli from Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Quran Institute.

The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

at the International Convention Centre (ICC) was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Md. Zain, Minister of Religious Affairs as well as members of the 1421 Hijrah National Level Major Islamic Events Celebration Executive Committee.

Continue on page 5





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 first-place trophy to Ahmad Zaaim bin Haji Bagol from Ma'had Islam Brunei, the winner of the competition under Category 'B'.



From page 4

Also attending the event were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; 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 Haji 'Abdul Mateen.

The ceremony commenced with a recitation of Al-Quran verses by Aslenan bin Haji Metusin; whereas the translations were recited by Noralizam bin Haji Aliakbar.

The Minister of Religious Affairs in his welcoming remarks mentioned that the participation of the youths in the spreading of Islamic Dakwah through the Al-Quran shows the commitment and attention given by the government in caring for and providing exposure to the younger generations.

According to the Minister, the development can be seen when the participants from Brunei Darussalam were invited to join Al-Quran memorisation competitions in several countries such as Saudi Arabia in Mecca; Arab Republic of Egypt; Jordan; United Arab Emirates as well as others and presented their memorisations well.

Yang Berhormat also expressed his hope that Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala will continuously bless Brunei Darussalam, and that the country will always preserve and glorify the Al-Quran with this blessing.

Touching on this year's Nuzul Al-Quran celebration, he stated that the preliminary stage of the Al-Quran memorisation competition was joined by 241 contestants. From this amount, as many as 86 contestants were admitted to the semi-final; and 12 managed to enter the final stage.

At the event, His Majesty also delivered a *titah* (royal speech).

Continue on page 6

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a trophy to Awang Mohd. Halidi bin Haji Besar, a student from the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Centre for Islamic Studies who won first-place under Category 'C'.



# National Level Nuzul Al-Quran celebration



From page 5

The celebration with the theme, 'Mengukuhkan Jati Diri Ummah Menurut Ajaran Islam' (Strengthening the identity of the ummah according to Islamic teachings), was jointly organised by the Minister of Religious Affairs and the Fire and Rescue Department, Ministry of Home Affairs.

The collaboration is hoped to cultivate stronger relations, specifically between government officers and staff in preserving and developing Islamic teachings as a shared responsibility.

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 trophy to Mohd. Saufi bin Haji Zulkifli from Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Quran Institute, the winner of Category 'D'.

## 'Spirit of Islam' important in defending the *ummah*

From page 1

bravery, and loyalty," said His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Thus, it is evident that the 'Spirit of Islam' is the most important factor in our framework towards building a defense for the *ummah*.

His Majesty highlighted the matter in his *titah* (royal speech), which was broadcasted by Radio Television Brunei (RTB) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1421 Hijrah/2000 Masihi.

The Monarch continued by saying that Syawal is a month of happiness: it is the month for Muslims to celebrate Hari Raya; it is a month filled with festivity; it is a month where Muslims gather in mosques or fields to perform the *takbir* and *tahmid* in glorifying the greatness of Allah, which are followed by the obligation to carry out mass Sunat Aidilfitri prayer.

"If we fully observe this environment, it is clearly a form of extraordinary greatness and beauty, especially when we observe the actions of a Muslim community led by an imam in their prayers," His Majesty further stated.

During this moment, His Majesty explained, what can be seen is the uniformity: a solid unity, from their motions to their conscience, towards one particular direction that is, to Allah and for Allah.

"At this time, there is no force that can overpower them, as they are under the strength of Allah. There is no power that can break them, as they are under the power of Allah," said the Monarch.

From this statement, His Majesty asserted, we can see that acts of worship to Allah, especially prayers, are strengths that cannot be compared. Why do we say so?

Because all acts of worship are guided by belief and fear towards Allah, the Monarch emphasised.

His Majesty also stressed in his *titah* that a Muslim community that carries out its duty will clearly and without doubt receive help from Allah. Stating this as one of the wonders of believing in and fearing Allah, His Majesty further clarified that a faithful individual is a source of strength for his community.

Moreover, if the entire community becomes members of faith, then the strength that they possess will surely multiply, for the strength that comes from Allah cannot be defeated.

When it comes to strength and perseverance, His Majesty added, we are all responsible, especially the current young generation and those in the future.

"Their hands contain the hope to continuously contribute their service and devotion towards preserving the endurance of the nation," said the Monarch.

His Majesty further listed out several ways of doing so, which include not straying from religion; conserving the Islamic creed and faith; enhancing piety towards Allah; conducting more benevolent activities; and preventing all possibilities of disobedience that could cause the displeasure of Allah.

The Monarch also advised the youths of the nation to act more wisely, and highlighted that parents play significant roles (aside from schools) in producing fine and highly virtuous youths.

"Exceptional youths are the most priceless luxury or asset. Hence, a country would be fortunate to have youths that are as such," His Majesty added, addressing his confidence that Brunei Darussalam has a big potential towards the goal.

# His Majesty makes courtesy call to His Majesty Al-Malek Fahd

**MECCA, SAUDI ARABIA, December 22** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made a courtesy visit to His Majesty Al-Malek Fahd Ibn 'Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, King of Saudi Arabia.

The ceremony took place at the As-Safa Palace in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, soon after His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam finished performing the mass Isyak and Sunat Tarawih prayers at the Masjidil Haram.

Also in attendance were His Majesty's sons, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Meanwhile, in the evening of December 23, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz attended a Banquet hosted by Her Highness Princess Jawhara binti Al-Ibrahim, spouse of the King of Saudi Arabia at the same palace.

Also present at the Banquet were His Majesty's daughters, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah

Hayatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bulkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah.

Both events, among other reasons, were aimed at strengthening the relationships which have existed between the two countries as well the royals of both countries. In addition, the visit also provided an opportunity for His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to express his appreciation to His Majesty Al-Malek Fahd for the continuous accommodation and hospitality provided by the Government of Saudi Arabia; not only to His Majesty and the royal family, but to all Brunei Darussalam pilgrims who have been performing Hajj and *Umrah* all this time.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was among the country and government leaders who were in the Holy City of Mecca to perform *Umrah*. His Majesty was in Mecca and Medina during the last ten days of Ramadan.

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Saudi Arabia have been established since 1984, which culminated with the visit of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to Saudi Arabia in January last year.

## Islam teaches admirable principles of justice

From page 1

The Monarch continued his *titah* by emphasising that the religion of Islam does not only care for humanity, but it also looks after all creatures as known in hadiths.

"This is the true Islam, how wonderful and beautiful it would be if we were to practice it in our lives. With that, let us all love Islam, a blessed religion from Allah.

"We should follow it, hold on to Allah's teachings; *Insha-Allah* (with the will of Allah), we will surely be safe and happy in this world and the next," His Majesty assured.

Earlier, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam recalled an incident of the Prophet Yusuf Alaihissalam, who was asked why he was fasting when he was the owner and manager of the entire country's supplies. The Prophet then replied by saying "I fear wealth as wealth can make me forget about those who are hungry".

His Majesty further stressed that this is the wonder of Islam, contrary to what is expected by some: that Islam has never contributed to the entire humanity, that it is not sensitive to the sufferings of other people, and other assumptions.

In his *titah*, the Monarch also stated that fasting, which is made compulsory by Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, brings many benefits. It also teaches lessons to give social awareness so that the Muslim community can feel the sufferings of those who are faced with poverty and hunger. According to His Majesty, awareness cannot be normally expected to come on its own, unless it is preceded with a lesson.

His Majesty then stated that these incidents of suffering and hunger continue to occur here and there to Muslims and non-Muslims who are in need of unified protection and sympathy, especially from those who are wealthy and privileged.

The Monarch previously expressed his gratitude to Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, for it is with His grace that the Muslim community gets to once again celebrate Ramadan: a month that brings blessings and good fortune; a month of forgiveness; a month of freedom from hellfire; and a month where the Al-Quran was descended.

"In the month of Ramadan, everything becomes a good deed. Fasting in the daytime is a good deed. Waking up at night to pray is a good deed. Donating, in its action, is as commendable as financing for *jihad* in the way of Allah," His Majesty explained.

Therefore, the Muslim community should be happy because Ramadan is a month that gives many benefits; it does not merely teach the soul to withstand hunger and control our personal lust, but it also encompasses cultivating social awareness on the pain and misery faced by humanity across the globe.

Nuzul Al-Quran is celebrated annually in the country to commemorate a significant event involving the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam: that is the passing down of the Al-Quran over 1,400 years ago.

The theme for this year's celebration is '*Mengukuhkan Jati Diri Ummah Menurut Ajaran Islam*' (Strengthening the identity of the Ummah according to Islamic teachings).



# Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri prayer and *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony



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; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; 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 during the Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri prayer at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 28 December** – 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 joined the people and citizens of the country to perform the Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri prayer on the first day of Syawal.

Upon arrival at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain bin Haji Serudin, Minister of Religious Affairs.

Continue on page 9



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family receiving *junjung ziarah* greetings from the congregants of the mosque.





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 other members of the royal family receiving audiences and *junjung ziarah* greetings from the State Dignitaries at the Istana Nurul Iman.

From page 8

Also attending the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; 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.

The Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri prayer was led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal, while the sermon was delivered by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya bin Haji Ibrahim.

Following the prayer, His Majesty and other members of the royal family received *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) greetings from the congregants of the mosque.

Afterwards, His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; along with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz received audiences and *junjung ziarah* greetings from the State Dignitaries and foreign diplomats, as well as their spouses at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; 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.

Also present were 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 Bulqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Nor'ain; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Noor Ehsani, as well as other members of the royal family.

Throughout the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration, the Istana Nurul Iman will be open for three days to the public to present *junjung ziarah* and Hari Raya Aidilfitri greetings to His Majesty and other members of the royal family.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam receiving audiences and *junjung ziarah* greetings from the spouses of State Dignitaries and foreign diplomats at the ceremony.



## Over 47,000 present Hari Raya Aidilfitri greetings



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving *junjung ziarah* greetings during the Hari Raya Aidilfitri Open Palace at the Istana Nurul Iman

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 31** - 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 and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz received *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) and Hari Raya Aidilfitri greetings from the citizens and residents of the country at the Istana Nurul Iman.

A total of 47,246 citizens and residents, including members of the uniformed forces and foreigners came to the three-day open palace to present their greetings to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family.

Present alongside His Majesty to receive *junjung ziarah* greetings from male visitors were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince;

Continue on page 11



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family receiving *junjung ziarah* and Hari Raya Aidilfitri greetings.





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 other royal family members receiving *junjung ziarah* greetings from members of uniformed forces.

From page 10

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; 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, as well as other members of the royal family.

In another section of the palace, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal

Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam received *junjung ziarah* greetings from female visitors.

Present at the section during the ceremony were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah;

Continue on page 12



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other royal members interacting and receiving a *junjung ziarah* greeting from a tourist with differing abilities.





Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam receiving *junjung ziarah* and Hari Raya Aidilfitri greetings from female visitors.

From page 11

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bulkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah; and His Majesty's granddaughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Raheemah Sanaul Bolkiah.

Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Nor'ain; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.



Other members of the royal family at the event.



# Maintain political and security conditions in Asia Pacific



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs with other Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the European Union (EU) during their arrival at the Official Opening Ceremony of the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting.

**VIENTIANE, December 11** - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Official Opening Ceremony of the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-European Union (EU) Ministerial Meeting (AEMM) at the National Culture Hall.

Present to officiate the launching was His Excellency Sisavath Keobounphanh, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, who also delivered a speech at the event.

Following the opening ceremony, His Royal Highness attended a private plenary session for the 13<sup>th</sup> AEMM at the Hotel Lao Plaza, where he delivered a *sabda* (royal speech) stating that one of the major ways to maintain the political and security situation in the

Asia-Pacific is the relentlessness in advancing the security conditions and one of the reasons for doing so is to seek a peaceful resolution. That is why there is a link between the higher power in this highly developed region, there is clearly a strong willingness to consult with each other.

What is important, said His Royal Highness is that ASEAN currently has more mechanisms to handle the affairs of the region, namely the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). ASEAN has also agreed that this year would be a good year for the forum, with North Korea joining the region as a huge step forward. With this, it is truly an optimistic matter with regards to the security situation.

Continue on page 14

## AEMM discusses future relations of ASEAN-EU

**VIENTIANE, December 10** - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs, in his *sabda* (royal speech), emphasised the importance of the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-European Union (EU) Ministerial Meeting (AEMM), where the ministers would be discussing the future relations of ASEAN and EU.

Aside from that, said His Royal Highness, the ministers will also be discussing issues of politics, security, as well as the international economic status.

His Royal Highness will be leading Brunei Darussalam's delegation to the 13<sup>th</sup> AEMM, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah. The meeting will be held from December 11-12.

Upon arrival at the Wattay International Airport, His Royal Highness was welcomed by His Excellency Khamanh Chanthala, Vice-Minister of Education of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. On the same day, His Royal Highness consented to attend an Informal Meeting with other Foreign Ministers of ASEAN.

The event took place at the Lao Plaza Hotel to discuss the preparations for the 13<sup>th</sup> AEMM, which will be officiated by the His Excellency Sisavath Keobunphanh, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

In the evening, His Royal Highness attended a dinner with other foreign ministers and heads of EU delegations at the Hotel Lao Plaza, which was hosted by His Excellency Somsavat Lengsavad, Deputy Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs sitting among other foreign ministers during the opening ceremony.



## From page 13

However, His Royal Highness highlighted, ASEAN should be cautious in acknowledging the confidence surrounding the region, as it is important in helping ASEAN to outline what is being done economically. This is evident at the recent APEC Conference held in Brunei Darussalam as what was produced has been very productive.

In fact, it can be said that ASEAN is now fully accepting new economic challenges. ASEAN aims to profit from opportunities and address any future problems, where the region also aims to be more than just a part of the global market aside from ensuring that everyone benefits from it.

It is clear that what is currently in question is how we are going to do it successfully. ASEAN can do so through a solid effort that it is positive. ASEAN already has a frontier region, with millions of people

coming from a place that is safe to invest, but ASEAN still has significant subordinate works to be done, but it is not an easy task. In other words, ASEAN should develop the ability to understand and address changes that will take place as soon as possible.

Additionally, said His Royal Highness, a clear factor related to the EU is that ASEAN has a good security condition in the Asia-Pacific region for as long as over 50 years ago. However, if it is to continue, ASEAN would need our EU dialogue partners to get involved and hope that the secretariat will have plenty of materials to propose, especially in choosing technical cooperation.

At the end of the speech, His Royal Highness further hoped that his concern on the economic situation along with traditional security matters is clear, as it is the key to future political stability and

regional security, especially in ensuring the fulfillment of long-term investment.

In the evening, His Royal Highness attended a Banquet at the Government Auditorium, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah.

The event was held to welcome the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and EU who were attending the 13<sup>th</sup> AEMM. The event was hosted by His Excellency Somsavat Lengsavad, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and spouse, Madame Bounkongmany Lengsavad.

At the event, His Royal Highness and other foreign ministers were presented with cultural dances and singing performances from several ethnic groups in Lao, which were accompanied by traditional music played by the Lao ethnic community.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah with other ASEAN Foreign Ministers listening to the closing remarks at the final session of the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah attending a Banquet held at the Government Auditorium.



# Courtesy calls with Lao PDR, Spain



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs together with ASEAN Foreign Ministers during the courtesy call to His Excellency Khamtay Siphandone, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Lao.

**VIENTIANE, December 12** – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah, along with other Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and European Union (EU) made a courtesy call to His Excellency Khamtay Siphandone, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Lao and spouse at the Presidential Palace (Hor' Kham).

In another section of the Presidential Palace, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah made a courtesy call to Madame Thong Vanh Siphandone, spouse of the President. Also present alongside Her Royal Highness were several spouses of Foreign Ministers of EU who accompanied their spouses attending the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM).

On the same day, His Royal Highness attended a private meeting during the 13<sup>th</sup> AEMM. The meeting took place at the Lao Plaza hotel, and was also attended by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and EU.

Among the matters taken into consideration were the efforts to strengthen the relationship between ASEAN and the EU. The meeting also looked into several issues, such as those related to international matters and the political situation of the region, security matters as well as economic issues.

His Royal Highness also received a courtesy call from His Excellency Miguel Nadal, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain.

Brunei Darussalam and Spain have established diplomatic relations several years ago, aside from having trading relations and mutual understandings in ASEAN-EU.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah receiving a courtesy call from His Excellency Miguel Nadal, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain.



Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah during a courtesy call to Madame Thong Vanh Siphandone, spouse of the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Lao.



## Islamic Development Bank sets up funding office in Brunei



Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Selamat bin Haji Munap, Deputy Minister of Finance; and Mumtaz Khan, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Emerging Markets Partnership explaining the establishment of the Islamic Development Bank Funding Office in Asia.

**JERUDONG, December 11** – Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the biggest Islamic financial institution based in Jeddah, and its financial partner, Emerging Markets Partnership, which is based in Bahrain, will be establishing a funding office for the IDB Infrastructure Fund in Asia in Brunei Darussalam.

The establishment of the office for the fund in Asia was approved by the Ministry of Finance and is expected to operate next year.

Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Selamat bin Haji Munap, Deputy Minister of Finance in his opening speech at the conference explained that the building of the office in the country shows the nation's early success in its strategy to improve the International Finance Centre (IFC), which is focused on substantial international investment activities, as well as the country's commitment towards Islamic finance.

During the briefing, Mumtaz Khan, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Emerging Markets Partnership explained that Brunei Darussalam was chosen based on its ideal location in terms of political stability, economy and financial situation.

"The IDB Funding Office will be the main centre to obtain infrastructure projects in the Asian region, aside from strengthening and preserving the banking relations in Asia, which aims to play the same role in funding projects with IDB shares.

"The participation of these banks in joint investments will not only be limited to projects that are carried out in the Asian

region, but they are also offered to other country members of the IDB," said the Chairman.

Mumtaz Khan also explain that the fund, which will be announcing its first investment in Bahrain, can invest in various private sector infrastructure projects including production, telecommunication, transportation, the development of primary resources and other infrastructure that are related such as cement.

The IDB Fund, he added, aims to invest in equity and give its commitment as a complementary fund in infrastructure projects in Asian Islamic countries.

"The fund will be able to provide various financial resources for various infrastructure projects in the private and regional sector. At the early stage, the fund will focus on investing in relevant projects in Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia, as well as the Republic of Indonesia in a short while," Mumtaz Khan further elaborated.

IDB, the multilateral financial institution consisting of 53 member countries, was established to enhance economic and social developments.

The building of the funding office is a continuation of the establishment of the IFC, which was declared by the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in the middle of the year, offers special services in Islamic and conventional banking.

## Five local heroines set off to Kilimanjaro

**BERAKAS, December 12** – Five local women have departed to Tanzania to start their expedition to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, the second tallest building in the world.

The delegation consisted of Norhayati binti Abu Bakar, 33 year-old local female entrepreneur; Nona Ellis binti Muhammad Hassan, 34 year-old housewife; Faridah Jepang, 31 year-old Project Coordinator from the Public Works Department (PWD); Tan Fen Liang, 25 year-old Science teacher from Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin College; and Lance Corporal Hajjah Norimah binti Damit, 27 year-old member of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

Their expedition to the mountain, which is as tall as 5,895 metres in the African continent, is expected to be completed by January 1, 2001.

In a meeting that took place before their departure, Norhayati, head of the expedition stated that their

journey will begin with a one-week preliminary training in Vienna.

Prior to this, the delegates have also carried out their preparation and trainings for four months, which involved climbing the Mount Kinabalu in Sabah. She also explained that their training in Vienna would be their final.

Afterwards, they would arrive in Arusha, Tanzania on December 20; while on December 22, the historic climbing expedition would commence from the Mahami Road all the way to the peak of Uhuru and on January 1, they are expected to arrive at Mount Kilimanjaro by waving the country's flag.

Prior to their departure, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Raja Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Mohd. Ali bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs presented the nation's flag to be displayed on the mountain peak to the head of the delegation.



# STEP programme participants receive certificates

**BERAKAS, December 20** – A total of 59 officers and students from several higher institutions and secondary schools received their certificates after participating in international programmes conducted by the Science, Technology and Environment Partnership (STEP) Centre for the years 1999 and 2000.

Presenting the certificates at the Conference Room of the Ministry of Education (MOE) was Dato Paduka Awang Haji Alihashim bin Haji Daud, Permanent Secretary of the MOE.

In 1999, teachers and students participated in a programme in Malaysia and two other programmes in the Republic of Singapore; whereas in 2000, they participated in two programmes in the Republic of Korea and two other in the Republic of Indonesia as well as the Republic of Singapore respectively.

Awang Mohd. Aliddin bin Ghani, Chairman of STEP said in his speech that the overall achievement of the participations throughout the programmes is very commendable and it serves as a motivation for the students and the MOE to conduct and handle more activities.

During the Search For SEAMEO Young Scientists (SSYS) programme in Penang, Malaysia, two students

each received the 'Best Application of Scientific Principles or Approaches' award with RM1,000 cash and trophy.

At the Second APEC Youth Science Festival (AYSF) in the Republic of Singapore, said the Minister, Dayang Marzaleine binti Haji Adinin was awarded the 'Best Speaker' award. Meanwhile, at the ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Youth Exchange Programme Millennium Asia Youth Camp in the Republic of Korea, the participants were rewarded for their courage in taking part in the activities.

In the final match of the 41st International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), two students attained outstanding achievements.

Aside from that, several students were also given important positions in their groups during the ASYF and ASEAN-ROK programmes with their appointment as Team Leaders, Assistant Team Leaders and Secretaries.

Their participation in the programmes is intended to provide exposure to the students, and some of these programmes may be created as a continuation and conducted by STEP.



**اقليکاسي موده اليه جابتن قنرغن**

**The Department of Information's Mobile Application**

- Facilitates in Accessing the **Latest News**
- Increases the **Sharing of Information**
- **Easy** and **Fast** Accessibility
- Supports the **Paperless** and **Green IT**

**Use Our Application Today!**

Easy download and access

Available on the **App Store**

GET IT ON **Google Play**

**'Nurturing an Informed Society'**