



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Department of Information  
Prime Minister's Office

MARCH, 2012  
VOLUME 27 ISSUE 3



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Majesty at the opening ceremony of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legislative Council.

**Royal speech in conjunction with the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the State Legislative Council**

**HM: Strengthen family institution to overcome social issues**

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 1 –** To further improve the welfare of the citizens and residents, focus should be given towards enhancing the level and quality of education and human capacity-building. This includes youth development through various planned programmes and education system that is continuously strengthened in which by Allah's will, the nation's hope to produce knowledgeable, piteous and insightful thinking youths will be achieved more easily.

We therefore should not overlook by forgetting the role of family institution

\* Continue on page 6

## Brunei–Sabah: Closer relation fostered

**SANDAKAN, March 3 –** Brunei Darussalam and the Malaysian state of Sabah continue to share a warm relation. This was further strengthened with a recent visit by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam who made a two-day visit to Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia.

While in Sandakan, Sabah, His Majesty visited several places namely the Rainforest Discovery Centre (RDC). While at RDC, His Majesty visited the House of Deramakot and Heart of Borneo (HoB) exhibition based at Kabil Theatre. His Majesty also went on the Canopy Walkway and visited the Plant Discovery Garden and the Orchid Centre.

His Majesty then had a luncheon at Keruing Café before ending the day visit. In the afternoon,

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PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

His Majesty consents to launch the Sandakan Festival 2012.





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## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

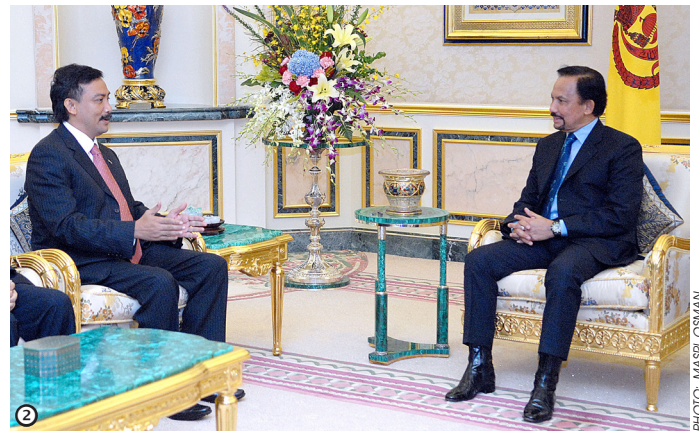


PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

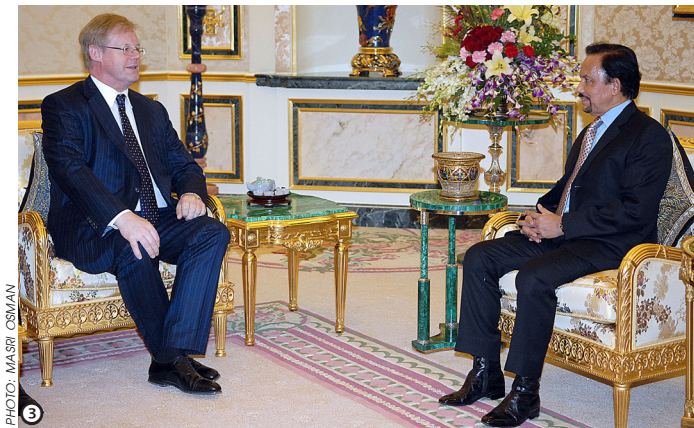


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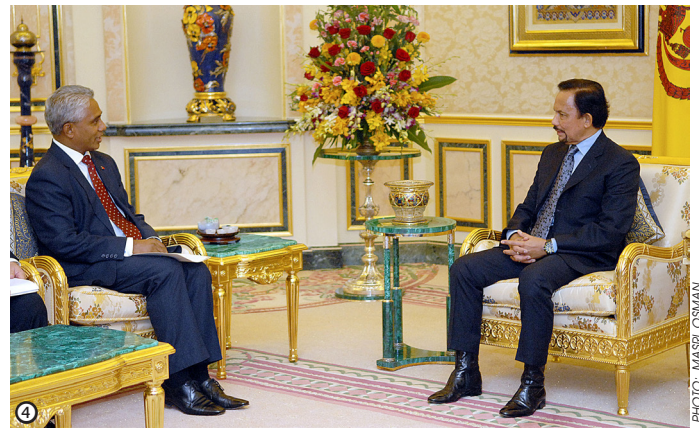


PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

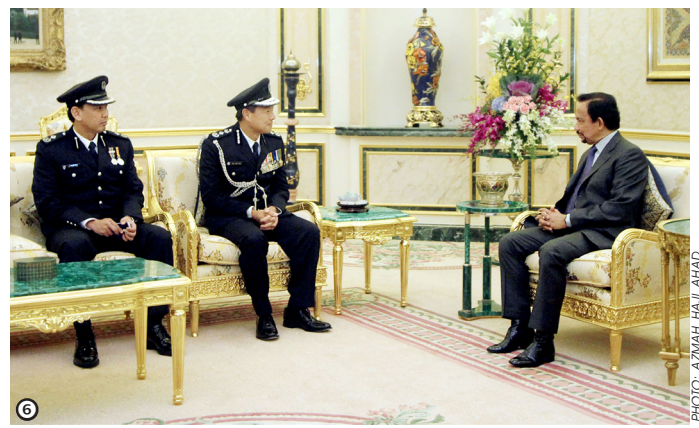


PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

## His Majesty receives audiences

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

- ❶ His Excellency Edmond Haxhinasto, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania on March 8.
- ❷ His Excellency Dr. Andi Alfian Mallarangeng, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Indonesia on March 8.
- ❸ The Right Honourable Alderman David Wootton, Lord Mayor of the City of London on March 10.
- ❹ His Excellency Dr. Zacarias Albano Da Costa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on March 12.
- ❺ Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Raja Muda Perak Darul Ridzuan Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah on March 13.
- ❻ Mr. Peter Ng Joo Hee, Commissioner of Police of the Republic of Singapore on March 27.
- ❼ His Excellency Dato' Seri Utama Dr. Rais bin Yatim, Minister of Information, Communication and Culture, Malaysia as Commissioner for Special Coronation Committee on March 28.



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

**His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented diplomatic credentials to two Brunei Darussalam's newly-appointed envoys. The ceremony was held on March 29 at the Istana Nurul Iman.**

They were:

- ❶ His Excellency Dr. Haji Emran bin Bahar, newly appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Lao People's Democratic Republic.
- ❷ His Excellency Awang Haji Nordin bin Haji Ahmad, newly appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to State of Qatar.

PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

**His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received diplomatic credentials from three newly-appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony was held on March 29, 2012 at the Istana Nurul Iman.**

They were:

- ❶ His Excellency Nicos Panayi, newly-appointed and non-resident Ambassador of Republic of Cyprus to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❷ His Excellency Maria Bassols Delgado, newly-appointed and non-resident Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❸ His Excellency Attila Csaba Farago, newly-appointed and non-resident Ambassador of Hungary to Brunei Darussalam.



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR



## Her Majesty receives audiences



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD



PHOTO: DR. NUR HAFILAH PG. OSMAN



PHOTO: HERMIE SULAWA HAJI OTHMAN

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

- ❶ The spouse of the Minister of Youth and Sports, Republic of Indonesia, Ibu Vitri Cahyaningsih on March 8.
- ❷ The spouse of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, Madame Maria Helena Lopes de Jesus Pires on March 12.
- ❸ The spouse of Republic of Singapore's Police Commissioner, Madam Joyce Bee Kim Ng on March 27.
- ❹ The spouse of Minister of Information, Communication and Culture, Malaysia as Commissioner for Special Coronation Committee, Yang Berbahagia Datin Sri Utama Maznah Rais on March 28.



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

## Crown Prince receives audience

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Raja Muda Perak Darul Ridzuan Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah on March 13.

The audience took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.

## His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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

- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in conjunction with Commonwealth Day on March 12.
- His Excellency Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and His Excellency Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Prime Minister of Pakistan in conjunction with Pakistan Day on March 23.
- His Excellency Mohammad Zillur Rahman, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Prime Minister of Bangladesh in conjunction with the Republic's Independence Day on March 26.



\* From frontpage

(Royal speech in conjunction with the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the State Legislative Council)

through a happy and perfect family. It is without a doubt that it will be able to effectively overcome the various social issues.

The matters were stated by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan



The royal speech among others touched on the role of the *mukim* and village institutions.

of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) at the opening of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the State Legislative Council.

With that, said His Majesty, relevant agencies responsible in handling social and welfare issues should focus their efforts towards drawing up policies and plans to strengthen the family institution. In this context, the role of *mukim* and village institutions spearheaded by *Penghulu* and village heads are relevant.

The opening of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the State Legislative Council was held at the Legislative Council Building where members of the State Legislative Council will be discussing the fiscal year budget for 2012/2013.

Present at the opening were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, who is Ex-Officio Member of the State Legislative Council; His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ex-Officio Member of the State Legislative Council; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.



Group photo of members of the Legislative Council.

## More than \$5.23 billion approved for 2012/ 2013

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 17** - An amount of \$5,230,785,000.00 has been approved by the State Legislative Council for the 2012/ 2013 fiscal year budget. The approved budget would take into effect on April 1, 2012.

According to the Minister of Finance II, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, the budget approved was for the 12 ministries and the 'Kemajuan' (Development).

Below is the detailed information of the allocated budget:

Prime Minister's Office	-	\$593,216,580.00
Ministry of Defence	-	\$513,172,760.00
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	-	\$143,974,660.00
Ministry of Finance	-	\$874,105,310.00
Ministry of Home Affairs	-	\$163,628,720.00
Ministry of Education	-	\$731,066,080.00
Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources	-	\$91,044,090.00
Ministry of Religious Affairs	-	\$238,442,000.00
Ministry of Development	-	\$307,860,350.00
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports	-	\$97,751,490.00
Ministry of Health	-	\$347,757,000.00
Ministry of Communications	-	\$78,765,960.00
'Kemajuan'	-	\$1,050,000,000.00

## Living Allowance to be released in July

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 12** - By command of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Prime Minister's Office announced that the outstanding balance of Living Allowance (Elaun Sara Hidup) and its returns will be released and paid to all concerned officers and staff from July 2012.

The payment method of the allowance and its returns are detailed in the circular released by the Prime Minister's Office.

The balance will be updated on the returns on top of the amount of allowance accumulated every year, and not solely on the allowance.

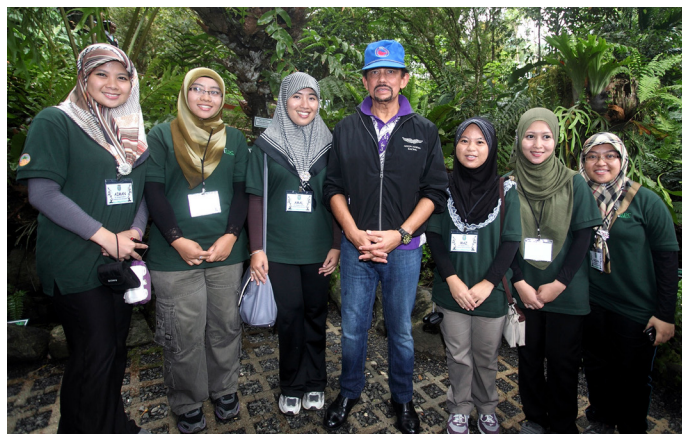
The allowance will be paid on the government pay day in July 2012 for officers and staff in monthly paid service, while daily paid staff will be on 30 July 2012.

For local staff in the diplomatic mission offices of Brunei Darussalam, the allowance will be paid on 30 July 2012 and handled by their respective offices.





Rainforest Discovery Centre (RDC), one of the places visited by His Majesty.



Bruneian students doing research at the Rainforest Discover Centre (RDC) taking the opportunity to greet His Majesty.

**\* From frontpage  
(Brunei – Sabah: Closer relation fostered)**

His Majesty held a friendly badminton match with local badminton players held at Sandakan Community Hall.

While in the evening, His Majesty attended a banquet hosted by the Sandakan's community held in conjunction with His Majesty's visit to Sabah. The banquet was held at the Libaran Multipurpose Hall.

While in Sabah, His Majesty launched the Sandakan Festival 2012 held at the Sandakan Municipal Field. His Majesty launched the Sandakan Festival by boarding a special vessel. The festival included cultural performances which reflect the strong relationship of the various races in Sabah, better known as 'Bumi Di Bawah Bayu' or 'Land Under the Wind'.

PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



His Majesty attends a banquet with the Sandakan community.



His Majesty on arrival at the Sandakan Festival.



His Majesty at the Sandakan Festival.



A banquet hosted in conjunction with His Majesty's visit to Sabah.



## Brunei wins Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy

**BERAKAS, March 9** - Brunei Darussalam emerged as the champion for the Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy for ASEAN Youth Football Tournament 2012 (HBT 2012) after defeating Indonesian National under 21 Youth Football Team by 2-0.

Present to watch the game at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince

Haji Jefri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik. Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; His Majesty's grandchildren as well as other members of the royal family.

His Majesty consented to award the Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy to the Brunei Darussalam under 21 National Youth Football Team.

Prior to, His Royal Highness The Crown Prince presented the medals to the winners, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> runners-up, best player award, top scorer award as well as tokens of appreciation to match officials.

Brunei Darussalam team received \$20,000 while the first runner-up, Indonesia received medals and a mock cheque of \$10,000.



Brunei Darussalam's HBT team manager, Awang Haji Feisal and team captain, Mohd. Najib receive the champion trophy from His Majesty.

'We are the champion', Brunei Darussalam's HBT team wins the championship after defeating Indonesian team by 2-0.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 31** – Leadership should be comprehensive in all areas: economy, education, community and religion.

The *mukim* and village communities must also enjoy the leadership result otherwise the leadership is considered as a failure.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated the matters in a *titah* (royal speech) during the Second Excellent Village Award held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

In the *titah*, His Majesty also touched on the importance of commitment and discretion of the *penghulu* (head of *mukim*) and village heads in caring their people.

Prior to that, His Majesty also expressed hoped that the Excellent Village Scheme will stimulate efforts to drive the welfare of village community.

*Mukim* and Village Consultative Councils, said His Majesty also playing their role well as a social movement body which able to become catalyst to the grassroots' leader.

The ceremony witnessed, Village Consultative Council of Sungai Matan, Kota Batu, Brunei-Muara District won the first Bronze Award and received cash prizes of \$10,000, grant assistance of \$30,000 for development and welfare project, plaque, trophy and certificate.

Meanwhile, Village Consultative Council of Sibut, Mukim Amo, Temburong District won the second Bronze Award and received cash prizes of \$7000, grant assistance of \$15,000 for development and welfare project, plaque and certificate.

Appreciation award was presented to Village Consultative Council of Lepong Baru, Mukim Bokok, Temburong District.

Eighteen village consultative councils had been selected for

## Second Excellent Village Award



One of the winners receives the award from His Majesty.

entering national level, that is, four from Brunei-Muara District, five from Belait District, four from Tutong District and five from Temburong District.

A total of three awards contested, namely, Gold Award, Silver Award and Bronze Award. For this year, the highest award achieved was only Bronze Award.

\* Continue on page 9



\* From page 8  
(Second Excellent Village Award)

The National Level Excellent Village Award was held biennially, whereas the first was held in 2008-2009 and the award presented in 2010.

Also present at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Majesty also consented to visit exhibition that was held by various *Mukim* and Village Consultative Councils.



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

His Majesty consented to sign as commemoration at one of the products exhibit.



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

His Royal Highness at the meeting held at the Legislative Council Building.

## Customs and Tradition Council convenes first meeting for 2012

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 24** – The Customs and Tradition Council convened its first meeting for 2012.

In attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Advisor to the Council; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, Chairman of the Council; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Deputy Chairman II of the Council; and members of the council.

The meeting was held at the Legislative Council Building in Jalan Kebangsaan.

PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN



Their Royal Highnesses on arrival in Doha.

## Their Royal Highnesses on official visit to Qatar

**DOHA, QATAR, March 28** - 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 were in Doha, State of Qatar for a four-day official visit.

Accompanying Their Royal Highnesses were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Muntaqim and Her Royal Highness Princess Muneerah Madhul Bolqiah. Also accompanying was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Qawi.

Their Royal Highnesses' official visit to Qatar was on the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Heir Apparent of Qatar.

Their Royal Highnesses arrived in Qatar on March 25.

Brunei Darussalam and Qatar established diplomatic relations since October 2, 1991 and both countries have established bilateral cooperation in a number of areas including trade and investment, culture and education.

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\* From page 9  
(Their Royal Highnesses on official visit to Qatar)

## Brunei – Qatar: Bilateral relation discussed

**QATAR, March 27** - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office began his official visit programme to the State of Qatar on March 26 with a meeting with His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, The Heir Apparent of Qatar at the Amiri Diwan in Doha.

During the meeting, His Royal Highness and His Highness discussed bilateral relation between both countries and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. After the meeting, His Royal Highness consented to attend the official luncheon hosted by His Highness.

After the meeting, His Royal Highness visited the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar. The Museum of Islamic Art of Qatar first opened its doors to visitors in December 8, 2008 and was the first of its kind in the Persian Gulf. The building is designed by a world renowned architect I.M.Pei, famous for his pyramid at the Louvre in Paris and many other signature buildings across the world.

Among the exhibits viewed by His Royal Highness were the 'Book of Secrets' owned by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, The Emir of Qatar and 'The Gift of The Sultan'.

On March 27, His Royal Highness continued the official visit programme to Qatar with a visit to the Aspire Academy for Sports Excellence in Doha.

At the academy, His Royal Highness received a briefing on the establishment and background of the Aspire Academy for Sports Excellence. The Aspire Academy for Sports Excellence was founded in 2004 with the aim of transforming promising student-athletes into world champions across a range of sports and to encourage an active, healthy and sporting lifestyle for



**His Royal Highness and His Highness during the meeting discuss on bilateral relations on regional and international issues of mutual interest.**

the people of Qatar and the surrounding region.

His Royal Highness toured around the facilities at the academy. The academy is designed with a philosophy that aims to develop the students by providing them with full academic and sports development so that they have the broadest possible opportunities in adult life which coincides with its theme 'Aspire Today, Inspire Tomorrow'. The academy is Qatar's visionary programme for discovering and developing sporting talent from the region and around the world. The academy concept consists of six pillars, which are the Introduction Phase, Long-Term Athlete Development & Career Plan, Monitoring Performance, Sports Education, Training Camps and Competition Camps.

Accompanying His Royal Highness during the visits was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Qawi.



**His Royal Highness takes a closer look at one of the exhibits at the Museum of Islamic Art.**



**Director-General of Aspire Academy for Sports Excellence, Ivan Bravo briefs His Royal Highness on the facilities provided at the academy.**



**Her Royal Highness presents appreciation gift to one of working paper presenters.**

## Global issues of conflict among future challenges

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 10** - Humanity is confronted with the global issues of conflict, poverty, disease and economic instability where the challenge that we face now and for the foreseeable future, is how, both as individuals and nations, we can move forward in ensuring that the quality of life is raised for all.

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah said in a *sabda* (royal speech) at the opening ceremony of the 10<sup>th</sup> International School of Brunei (ISB) Borneo Global Issue Conference held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

Her Royal Highness said that it is vital that young people are made aware of the impact of the growth of our population, particularly as our planet faces unprecedented challenges in

**\* Continue on page 11**



\* From page 10

**(Global issues of conflict among future challenges)**

terms of dwindling natural resources and environmental degradation.

"Every student here today, is a part of the rapidly growing portion of the world's 1.8 billion adolescents and youths aged from 10 to 24, who constitute more than a quarter of the world's population and 90 per cent of whom live in developing countries.

It is this young population that holds one of the crucial keys to creating and ensuring, sustainable and equitable development globally. But to realise their potential, we need to invest in them.

We need to ensure that they have the tools of education to hone and channel their creativity and capacities for innovation.

We need to endow them with the gift of health, that they can properly devoted their energies and zeal to supporting themselves and their families.

And we need to instil in them, the belief in themselves, that irrespective of their gender, ethnicity of circumstances, they can succeed in their efforts both big and small to improve their lives and the lives of their children to come.

Empowering young people and involving them is a giant step forward for our mutual benefit," said Her Royal

Highness.

The four-day conference was attended by some 300 secondary students from over 20 local and international schools across Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Kingdom of Thailand and Hong Kong. With this year's theme, 'Seven billion people, One planet', the conference will discuss and debate global issues such as sustainability of energy, war and terrorism, human rights and the growing economic crisis also poverty still faced by some of the people in the world namely Republic of the Philippines, Africa, Republic of India, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Kingdom of Cambodia and several other countries.

PHOTOS: HATRAL HAZMI ABD. HAMID



His Royal Highness in an audience with His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.



Both ministers discuss on issues related to bilateral relations, regional and international affairs.

## Brunei – Saudi Arabia foster closer bilateral relation

**RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA, March 25** – Brunei Darussalam and Saudi Arabia share a warm bilateral relation and was further strengthen with a three-day visit by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade to Saudi Arabia.

His Royal Highness arrived in Saudi Arabia on March 23 where His Royal Highness attended an audience to His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. The audience took place at Al-Amir Palace, Riyadh.

In the afternoon, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended a working luncheon hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The luncheon was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Riyadh. Both ministers discussed bilateral relations and regional and international affairs.

On March 25, His Royal Highness held a meeting with the Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud. The meeting took place at the Saudi Arabia Ministry of Defence Office in Riyadh. His Royal Highness and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud discussed bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and Saudi Arabia.

His Royal Highness was in Riyadh for a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia on the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal bin Abdul Aziz.

Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Saudi Arabia established diplomatic relationship on July 1987.

## Brunei Handball Federation established

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 12** – Handball enthusiasts received a positive development with the establishment of the Brunei Handball Federation (BHF).

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

At the ceremony, the President of BDNOC received a contribution of 20 balls and one set of Handball sports attire from the Ambassador of Germany to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dr. Bernd Morest. The contributions were then handed over to the President of BHF.

The establishment of BHF aimed to promote the sports continuously apart from enhancing the professionalism standard in Handball event.

The event took place at the Indoor Stadium Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex in Berakas.



His Royal Highness launches the formation of Brunei Handball Federation (BHF).

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALLEH HAJI MOHD. ALI



## 3 athletes to London 2012 Olympic Games

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 22** – Brunei Darussalam will be sending three athletes to the London 2012 Olympic Games. The three athletes will be competing in athletics and swimming sports events.

The matter was concluded at a special meeting to evaluate and consider additional athletes to represent the country at the 30<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games in London.

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

Only one additional athlete from athletics was nominated to participate in the London Olympic Games. Meanwhile, for the swimming event, there will be no additional woman athlete because they did not meet the criteria for submission.

The meeting was a follow-up to a decision of the executive committee meeting held on February 13 where the



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

committee considered two additional athletes as substitute or in case of injury.

Also present at the meeting was the Minister of Culture Youth and Sports,

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair and other members of the executive committee held at Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium Conference Room.

## Youth Meeting: Rebranding of Youth Centre discussed

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 15** – A youth meeting was held where it provided youths with opportunities to voice their opinions and make suggestions towards the implementation of rebranding the Youth Centre and the establishment of a Youth Park.

In attendance at the meeting were His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports; senior government officials; and youth representatives from various organisations.

Talks are currently underway for the rebranding of Youth Centre where it is envisioned to become the centre for youth activities.

With fruitful and focused ideas, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports will be able to plan and implement programme and activities at the Youth Centre according to their interests and taste based on the Malay Muslim Monarchy (MIB) concept in achieving the objective and aspiration of Brunei Vision 2035.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul 'Azim at the meeting. Also present is Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Paduka Hajah Adina.

## National Day Run 2012



The National Day Run 2012 in Brunei-Muara District is participated by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik. Also participating is Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 4** – In conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 28<sup>th</sup> National Day, a National Day Run 2012 was held in all four districts. Besides celebrating the National Day, it was also held with the aim to strengthen the relationship and generate integration amongst the younger generation with various related stakeholders in the country.

Present to grace the National Day Run 2012 was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik where His Royal Highness consented to present the prizes to the winners of the seven categories for the run.

In the Brunei-Muara District, the run began and ended at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex in Berakas.

While in the Belait District, the run was held at the Pusat Insani Building, Seria. In the Tutong District the run was held at the Tutong Sports Complex and in Temburong, the event was held at Belalong Hall, Community Hall Complex.



## Brunei Darussalam celebrates Earth Hour

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 31** - Brunei Darussalam joined other countries celebrating the global campaign - 'Earth Hour'. The event was held at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin, one of the nation's landmarks located in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Present at the campaign was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Among the activities held to mark the campaign was 'Earth Hour Ride' which started on 8.30pm. The 15 kilometres cycling began and ended at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin. Among the participants was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya.

With the theme 'I will if you will', this was the third time for Brunei to partake in this campaign.

The participation of the 'Earth Hour' global campaign also attracted participation from the government and non-government sectors. One of the government sectors that participated was the Ministry of Development and one of the non-government sectors that participated was the Brunei Darussalam Scouts National Association (PPNBD).

Ministry of Development participated in the 'Earth Hour' global campaign by switching off the unimportant lights at the Ministry of Development's building at 8.30pm until 9.30pm. Present were

the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi, officers and staffs of Ministry of Development.

Other than that the minister, officers and staffs of the Ministry of Development were also presented by the 'Earth Hour 2012' video and the presentation about 'Facts about Electric Power and Mitoses'. The function was a support manifestation towards 'Earth Hour' initiative globally related to climate changes.

The PPNBD also took part in the 'Earth Hour' campaign at their Head Office in which they lit candles for 60 minutes starting from 8.30pm where most of the building's lights were switched off.

## World Thinking Day commemorated

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 25** - The Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association commemorated World Thinking Day with a prize presentation for the winners of World Thinking Day 2012 Message Competition, a handicraft exhibition and World Thinking Day 2012 sales.

Present to grace the event was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, President of the association. Also in attendance was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah.

The event took place at the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association Headquarters in Anggerek Desa.

World Thinking Day is celebrated every February 22 by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. This year's celebration is themed 'Together We can Save Our Planet' which is derived from the 7<sup>th</sup> Millennium Development Goals towards ensuring environmental sustainability.



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

Her Royal Highness takes a closer look at one of the exhibits.

## Opening of Legal Year 2012

### Court needs sufficient, trained, dedicated human resource

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 13** - One of the basic needs for a good and efficient management of courts and its cases is by having a sufficient, trained and dedicated human resource.

The matter was stated by Chief Justice, Yang Berhormat Dato Awang Haji

Kifrawi at the opening of Legal Year 2012.

According to the Chief Justice, we need to work hard and wise in managing the court so we will be able to fairly implement justice. Continuous training must exist and we must continue to ensure that we have a modern court building equipped with relevant equipment.

Court and Case Management System, he further said, needs to be continuously improvised through investing in technology. This has been carried out by other ASEAN member countries.

The official opening of Legal Year 2012 is an annual event organised by the Civil Court in which it convenes in the first quarter of each year.

Also present at the opening were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah, Datin Dayang Hajah Hayati, Attorney General; Awang Haji Muhd. Zainidi bin Haji Abdul Hamid, President of the Brunei Darussalam Law Society.

Through the opening of the Legal Year, it is when the Court, the Attorney General and the Law Society make recommendations for action or plan to be implemented throughout the year. In addition it provides an opportunity for legal practitioners particularly the Attorney General and the Law Society to present an annual report to the public.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD ALI

Her Royal Highness is among the attendees at the Opening Ceremony of Legal Year 2012.



## 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information meeting convenes

**KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, March 1** – A number of issues such as matters related to ASEAN Digital Broadcasting; New and Social Media; the role of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI); and the development of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation on Information were discussed at the 11<sup>th</sup> AMRI.

On matters related to ASEAN Digital Broadcasting, the ASEAN Ministers noted the progress in the implementation of digital broadcasting in ASEAN member states towards Analogue Switch-Off from 2015 to 2020. The ministers also endorsed the 'Guidelines for ASEAN Digital Switch-Over' which will serve as a shared blueprint to aid all member states in their transition towards digital broadcasting.

This guideline is based on the best practices of the various ASEAN member states and referencing the 'Guidelines for the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting' developed by ITU.

Present on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Colonel (Rtd.) Dato Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin.

In his speech, the minister emphasised on the importance of connectivity in reaching ASEAN's population which is at an estimated 600 million people covering an area of about 4 million sq. km. This is in regard to the 11<sup>th</sup> AMRI's theme which is 'Media: Connecting People and Bridging Cultures Towards One ASEAN Community', which according to the

minister is accurate as it emphasised on the importance of building one ASEAN community.

Our lives, ASEAN, said the minister passes by with many stories from happy to failures. It is important for the media to deliver the news with good intention.

The minister also spoke on digital technology which has changed our community especially the youth who will shape and develop ASEAN's future.

In this regard, the minister expressed his happiness with the establishment of ASEAN Secretariat's Facebook, ASEAN 2015 Twitter and ASEAN Blogger Community.

## Tourism Masterplan completed

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 5** – The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), through Department of Tourism Development, together with other government agencies and stakeholders have completed a Tourism Masterplan.

Speaking at the 8<sup>th</sup> Legislative Council meeting, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya disclosed the plan that aims to identify ways of boosting the tourism industry.

The master plan outlines 'Nature' and 'Islamic and Cultural Heritage' as the two main clusters for the department to focus on. Brunei Darussalam has pristine and unpolluted natural environment as well as unique Islamic and monarchical system which can be developed as tourist attractions.

There are 69 projects to be further developed. Among them are upgrading museums, providing sanctuary for proboscis monkeys, constructing an eco-lodge at Tasek Merimbun, master plan for the developing Kampung Kuala Balai, opening of Tropical and Biodiversity Centre in Labi, and upgrading tourism facilities in Kampung Senukoh.

This was made in response to the enquiry raised by Legislative Council member, Awang Haji Gapor @ Haji Md. Daud bin Karim on the tourist facilities information and research on interesting places for tourism.

## Brunei commemorates International Women's Day

**TUNGKU, March 8** – A seminar with the aim to provide awareness to girls and women (mothers) on domestic violence, incest and abuse against women and children was recently held as part of the activities to commemorate International Women's Day.

Through this seminar, it is also aimed to provide information on the existing acts in handling cases of domestic violence, incest and abuse against women and children; and services available to assist these victims.

The seminar too, aimed at promoting awareness on ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Right of Women and Children (ACWC) to the public in general; and the existing plan of action.

A special briefing was delivered by members of ACWC from Brunei Darussalam comprised of Department of Community Development and the Royal Brunei Police Force.

Present at the event was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman. The seminar was held at Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

International Women's Day is celebrated every March 8 globally with the aim to appreciate the progress and achievements of women, and to raise awareness on the importance of gender equality in all aspects of life.

## Demerit Point System to be introduced in April

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 15** – In the effort to increase the alertness of road users and to reduce road accidents, the Ministry of Communications, through Department of Land Transport (LTD), in collaboration with Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) will introduce Demerit Point System (DPS) by mid-April in three phases.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Dato Haji Awang Alaihuddin stated the first phase will run for six months.

The enforcement officers will be

equipped with Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) for recording the demerit points according to the eight categories of traffic offences.

The second phase will commence in October or November 2012. This includes the installation of hardware such as fixed speed cameras and traffic lights cameras at specific locations.

Both LTD and RBPF will verify the system and data are in place before the full deployment or third phase is implemented in mid of 2013.

The main objective of DPS is to ensure all road users to be more disciplined, cautious and abide the existing traffic rules and regulations. It also allows authorities to identify high risk motorists who have bad driving attitude and cause danger to other road users. Frequent traffic offenders will accumulate demerit points which eventually lead to the suspension or revocation of driving license.

No drivers will be exempted from the system including those who hold a foreign driving license.



## Brunei – Malaysia discuss health issues



PHOTO: HATRAL HAZMI ABD. HAMID

Brunei delegation headed by the Acting Head Director of Medical Services, Ministry of Health, Dr. Hajah Rahmah.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 15** - Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia through its 4<sup>th</sup> Technical Group Work about Health Bilateral Meeting had discussed a number of health issues.

The meeting began on March 13 and was chaired by the Acting Head Director of Medical Services, Ministry of Health, Dr. Hajah Rahmah binti Haji Mohd. Said, who led Brunei Darussalam's delegation. While Malaysia was led by the Deputy General Director (Public Health), Datuk Dr. Lokman Hakim bin Sulaiman.

This meeting is organised biennially between both countries with the aim of strengthening the cooperation in the health sector between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

Seven related health issues were discussed namely Infectious Diseases and Monitoring also Controlling Disease, Security and Quality Food, Controlling Medications and Cosmetic, Controlling Tobacco Products and Non-Communicable Diseases, Development of Human Resources, Transferring Patients between Boarder and Traditional Treatment and Extended Treatment.

## Bru-HIMS underway

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 16** - The Brunei Darussalam Healthcare Information Management System Project (Bru-HIMS) is currently actively conducted. It is expected to be operational in stages from July 2012.

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan said in his opening remarks prior to budget discussion at the 8<sup>th</sup> Legislative Council meeting.

This project will introduce the Patients Electronic Record in integrating the

management of patients' information in all government hospitals, health centres, and clinics to be more effective, efficient, and systematic.

The ministry is committed in its effort to provide better quality services and to reach international standards for its services. For instance, the Laboratory Services recently achieved international accreditation recognition ISO 15189-2007.

A board namely Visitors of Hospitals

Board with members from government agencies, private sectors, leaders as well as non-government agencies (NGO) and public was commenced on March 1, 2012. It aims in getting feedback and opinion for better quality and efficient services and healthcare in all government hospitals. This is in response to the suggestion made by one of the Legislative Council members during last year's meeting, said the minister.

## Registry of Companies under Ministry of Finance

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 17** - With the consent of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Registry of Companies and Business Names will be transferred to the Ministry of Finance in April 2012.

A thanksgiving ceremony was held at the Golden Jubilee Hall, Laws and Courts Building in conjunction with the relocation.

The event was graced with the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess

Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah.

Also in attendance were the Attorney General cum Registrar of Companies and Registrar of Business Names, Datin Hajah Hayati, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Mohammed Al Mokhtar and other officers and staff of Attorney General's Chambers (AGC).

In her speech, Datin Hajah Hayati expressed her appreciation to the staff of the registry for their commitment and dedication in delivering registry services

to the public. She also highlighted the achievements of the registry such as the silver award in Quality Control Circle Convention (Kumpulan Kerja Cemerlang) in 2002.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah also consented to give certificate of appreciation to the staff of the registry.

The Registry of Companies and Business Names was established in 1959 as one of the divisions under AGC.

## Intellectual property protection to develop creative industries

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 17** - A five-day National Seminar on Means on Strengthening Copyright and Related Rights was concluded with the certificate presentation by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Awang Haji Mohd. Hamid.

The presentation ceremony that was held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club began with remarks by the Acting Deputy Director of Information, Dayang Hajah Noorashidah binti Haji Aliomar as the representative of all the seminar participants. Intellectual property signifies creativity which comprises of literature,

arts and crafts, trade name, image and design, films and short videos, and commercialised intellectual properties.

The seminar which started on March, 13 until 17 were attended by 25 government officers responsible for copyright and related rights enactment. The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) of United Nations acknowledges that cultural treasure as an important component in a nation's development. Similarly, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) states that every community has their rights in preserving

arts and culture as their individuality. In this regard, the Attorney General's Chamber touched on the regulations and their roles in copyright and related rights protection in details.

Participants gained more knowledge and awareness in the importance of obeying law and the punishment implemented by the High Court. Besides, this seminar also aims to develop long-term plans between the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Attorney General's Chambers for a more inclusive and organised copyright and related rights protection.



## Brunei plans to establish kidney transplant service



Minister of Health delivers his speech.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 18** – Renal patients in Brunei rose from 524 people in 2010 to 579 people in February 2012. From this figure, 34 patients underwent kidney transplant treatment while 484 patients had haemodialysis and 61 patients had peritoneal dialysis.

This rise in statistics has caught the attention of Renal Services Department, Health Promotion Centre, Cardiology Unit, Endocrinology Unit and Diabetic Clinic to increase the public awareness on renal diseases and other risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiac diseases and obesity.

This was disclosed by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan at the World Kidney Day 2012 Celebration with the theme 'Donate a Kidney for Life'.

He underlined the significance of kidney transplant to kidney failure individuals in order to improve their life quality and prolong the life expectancy. However, kidney transplant cases are performed abroad which cost in between \$60,000 to \$120,000 depending on the complication. In view of this, the Ministry of Health is striving to provide such service in Brunei.

The minister later launched the first guide book on 'Nephrology Clinical Guideline Flowcharts' for doctors and nurses as well as Allied Health Professional in the Renal Services Department. The ceremony was held at The Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

## \$300,000 allocated for enhancing reading culture

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 19** – In the effort of promoting reading culture, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has allocated \$300,000 for the financial year 2012/2013.

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair highlighted the importance of reading during the launching of National Seminar on Empowering Reading Culture 2012 at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

He exemplified reading is as crucial as daily intake of nutrients for our body's development. Similarly, reading should become our daily routine for it is the food for mind and thought.

The minister added civil servants should uphold reading culture thus acquiring knowledge that will assist in the development of a dynamic and effective administrative and management system.

Every family institution ought to emphasise reading among their family members. Ideally every household should have a reading room with an extensive collection of reading materials for the family.

In addition, the Language and Literature Bureau (LLB) will build more libraries across the nation. LLB will evaluate and upgrade all library branches to attract more patrons and to create customer-friendly environment.

Government and non-government sectors including private sector and parents as well as teachers play a role in instilling reading culture in the society particularly school children.

## Minister of Energy attends 13<sup>th</sup> International Energy Forum

**KUWAIT, March 20** - The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Colonel (Rtd.) Dato Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin attended the 13<sup>th</sup> International Energy Forum (IEF) and the 5<sup>th</sup> International Energy Trade in Kuwait on March 12 until 14.

The meeting was chaired by Kuwait and supported by co-chaired countries namely People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and kingdom of the Netherlands

with themed Effective Dialogue, Best Way to Energy Security or 'Dialog Berkesan, Cara Terbaik Untuk Keselamatan Tenaga'.

The meeting was officiated by Amir of the state of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah.

The meeting was attended by the ministers from 73 industry countries as Royal Dutch Shell and Total as well as representatives from 15 International Organisations as International Energy

Agency; Associations of Petroleum and Gas Exporter Countries; and Exporter member countries.

The Minister of Energy also held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Joe Nakano, Vice Foreign Minister of Japan.

The next International Energy Forum will be held in Moscow, Russian Federation in 2014 and will be supported by co-chairman, Republic of Iraq and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

## Firm policy ensure sustainable forest

**LABI, March 21** – In its bid to preserve and sustain its existing forest, the government has been firm with forest preservation policy. In this matter, it is the role and function of the people, the young and old generation to play their respective role.

The matters were stated by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya at an event to mark World Forestry Day 2012.

The minister further added that there are many other innovative products that can be developed rather than sacrificing the forest. Those products are tourism based on nature or ecology that

provides knowledge, and at the same time, provide job opportunities.

Brunei Darussalam celebrated World Forestry Day 2012 with the official opening of Luagan Lalak Forest Recreational Park in Labi, Belait District,

Touching on the Luagan Lalak Forest Recreational Park, the minister said that the park, as one of Brunei's freshwater swamp forest 275 hectares wide. The park is one of eight forest recreational parks established and developed by the Department of Forestry. Its establishment is in line with the department's social forestry obligation and commitment toward providing a venue for recreation

within the natural environment throughout the country.

The park was developed for nature lovers who enjoy jungle trekking, picnics or fishing. The development and enhancement of park facilities for the convenience of visitors will further increase the attraction of the park and upgrade its status as another eco-tourism destination option in the country.

Brunei Darussalam first joined the global community in celebrating World Forestry Day in 1983. This year's World Forestry Day is themed 'Forest Biodiversity - Towards Green Economy'.



## Call for better usage of water supply

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 22** – Being one of the highest water consumers in the world, a call was made for members of the public for better usage of water supply. Besides reducing the amount of water used, this is also to prevent water wastage and to ensure a secure water supply in the future.

The matters were said by the Minister of Development at an event to mark World Water Day 2012 held at the

Waterfront.

The minister further added that one of the aims of commemorating World Water Day is to take specific measures taken to ensure water security, for us to value water now while it is still easily obtainable in this country, and to ensure that the water supply is always sufficient not only for us now, but also for the future generation.

The celebration was organised by the Public Works Department through Water

Services Department.

The World Water Day is observed internationally every March 22 as one of the means is to focus people's attention on the importance of water and support the management for a sustainable source of water.

The theme for this year's World Water Day is 'Water and Food Security'.

## 'The Report: Brunei Darussalam 2011' launched



PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD



**JERUDONG, March 22** - The publication of 'The Report: Brunei Darussalam 2011' is hoped to further enhance Brunei Darussalam's profile around the world in its continuous effort to provide reliable sources of information about the country.

The Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Pengiran Haji Abdul Haris bin Pengiran Shabudin made the remarks at the launching ceremony of 'The Report: Brunei Darussalam 2011'

book held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club,

The Report Series have been published annually by Oxford Business Group since 2007 which is considered to be a premier source of information on economic review, business opportunities and foreign investment potentials in Brunei Darussalam.

Also present was the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato

Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong who officially launched the book.

The fifth series publication of 'The Report: Brunei Darussalam 2011' among other things, puts the country's plan for industrial expansion in the spotlight, as the sultanate pushes ahead with its long term development programme, Brunei Vision 2035.

## Health Minister attends World Conference on Tobacco

**SINGAPORE, March 24** - Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan attended the launching campaign towards a Smoke-Free ASEAN on March 20 and the 15<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Tobacco or Health on March 20 to 21.

While in Singapore, the minister made a working visit to several hospitals and medical and health centres to observe the facilities and exchange information and experiences on the latest services

of health care apart from exploring more opportunities for health professional attachment at the institutions.

On March 24, the minister held a courtesy call to the Minister of Health of Singapore, The Honourable Gan Kim Yong.

Among matters discussed were the strengthening of cooperation in the field of health between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore including in strengthening

more effective and efficient health care system, professional health capacity development, increasing the cooperation in public health protection also in embattling the communicable diseases epidemic.

In 2007, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for closer cooperation in the health sector.

## Tuberculosis fatalities reduce

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 23** - Due to concerted efforts from all stakeholders, Brunei Darussalam has successfully achieved the World Health Organisation's West Pacific goal in reducing fatalities due to tuberculosis (TB) by 50 per cent, from six deaths per 100,000 people in 2000 to only three

deaths per 100,000 people in 2011.

It was further reported that out of 237 new cases of TB reported in 2010 in Brunei Darussalam, 172 were locals. While in 2011, this number dropped to 155 local cases out of 230 reported cases.

The matters were highlighted by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang

Haji Adanan in conjunction with World Tuberculosis Day 2012.

The minister said that the Ministry of Health will continue to increase its efforts and give better treatment service and enhance preventative measures. This includes the National TB Control Guidelines which is to give health care

\* Continue on page 18



**\* From page 17  
(Tuberculosis fatalities reduce)**

professionals a more comprehensive approach in the prevention and control of TB, health care education, community involvement, inter-agency cooperation,

epidemiological investigation and better laboratory testing.

World Tuberculosis Day is aimed at increasing awareness on the effects of the global epidemic of TB, and the various efforts that have been undertaken to

eradicate the disease. This year's theme is 'Towards A TB Free World', to encourage the public to play a role in the eradication of TB worldwide.

World TB Day is held on March 24 every year.

## Wetland forests vital in reducing effects of climate change

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 22** – Brunei Darussalam's forest covers 75 per cent of its total land area where it has seven types of forests including three types of forest swamps. Some of the forests have been developed into recreational parks including Luagan Lalak Recreational Park newly launched during World Forestry Day 2012, and Tasek Merimbun, one of ASEAN's National Heritage Parks.

The matters were said by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources at the official opening of the International Conference on Wetland Forests 2012.

The minister added that wetland forests are an important carbon store because the carbon is produced from organic materials that have accumulated over the years. The wetland forests are important in reducing the effects of climate changes and biodiversity in addition to helping the hydrological cycle.

Touching on the conference, the minister said that it is an important platform to spur Brunei Darussalam's development in the green economy as an important pillar of economic diversification.

This is an important part of the country's national initiatives to further its capacities not only in the conservation of this important ecosystem but also its sustainable development for the country's future generation.



**Minister of Industry and Primary Resources views the photography competition exhibition.**

PHOTO: DK. NUR HAFIAH PG. OSMAN

## World Meteorology Day celebrated

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 25** – Brunei Darussalam is protected from major natural disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, tsunamis and floods such as those occurring in the neighbouring countries. However, the country is not exempted from experiencing several extreme weather occurrences such as long droughts, trans-border haze and forest fires in 1997 and 1998, strong winds in the Brunei-Muara District on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2007 as well as flash floods and landslides involving several areas in the country on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2009.

The Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah stated this at the World Meteorology Day celebration 2012 held at Mahligai Hall, Airport Mall.

According to Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdullah such occurrences can be examples that the country needs to enhance the capacity of the extreme weather monitoring and early warning system.

The minister expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Civil Aviation

Department in improving the infrastructure through projects directed towards the enhancement of the extreme weather monitoring and early warning system under the National Development Plan 2007-2012 such as the provision of new systems namely Doppler Surveillance Weather Radar, System Wind Profiling and Echo Registering and Low Level Wind Shear Alert System.

The implementation of the three systems cost \$19.5 million overall. It is hoped the three new systems can further enhance the capabilities of the meteorological services, Civil Aviation Department in monitoring occurrences of dangerous weather such as heavy rains, strong winds, thunderstorms as well as issuing early warnings on extreme weather occurrences for the safety of the aviation operations, the public and property.

The function ran concurrently with the launch of the Meteorological Message Switching System - Global Telecommunication System. The

system provides facilities to the aviation community in accessing weather information as well as flight documents online, in line with the country's efforts towards the full implementation of the e-government project in which official letters and memos are made electronically. Cooperation in the establishment of a new international framework on climate services sponsored by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) will be launched this year, providing a multitude of benefits to National Meteorological Services worldwide, either in developed countries or developing ones especially in the aspect of information dissemination and weather forecast based on science and according to customers' needs.

This year theme was 'Powering Our Future with Weather, Climate and Water' and celebrated to promote general public awareness and understanding on meteorology, build a relation with end-user groups and foster the interest among students on meteorological science.



## Book Fair 2012

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 1** - The 18<sup>th</sup> Brunei Book Fair 2012 or Pesta Buku Brunei (PBB) 2012 managed to attract more than 65 thousand visitors including His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah's grandson, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak 'Abdul Raqib also his fellow intakes Year Three of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Religious School. The PBB 2012 started from February, 25 until March, 4 at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Berakas.

Attended as the guest of honour to officiate closed the PBB 2012 was the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Awang Haji Mohd. Rozan bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunos.

Dayang Hajah Aminah binti Haji Momin, Director of Language and Literature Bureau (DBP) stated that PBB 2012 was one of the events in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam 28<sup>th</sup> National Day Celebration.

Bringing the theme 'Books are the Future' or 'Buku Adalah Masa Depan', the PBB 2012 was a national project that recorded in the International Book Fair calendar with main goal of giving exposure to the peoples about the importance of reading culture through book reading and science and technology need in the globalisation era.

Fifty-seven local and international companies and bookstores participated at the PBB 2012. The guest of honour presented certificates to the participants from Republic of Philippines, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Republic of Singapore, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Egypt and Syrian Arab Republic, DBP, State Mufti Department, History Centre, Museums Department, Postal Services Department, Da'wah Islamiah Centre and Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan (KUPU SB) also two from ASEAN Book Publisher Association and Asia Pacific Publisher Association (APPA).

## Brunei Darussalam 28<sup>th</sup> National Day: Various activities organised

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 4** - A number of activities were organised as part of the events to celebrate Brunei Darussalam's 28<sup>th</sup> National Day.

As such, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Charity Walkathon was held, a collaboration between Kampung Bunut, Kampung Tasek Meradun, Kampung Madewa, Telanal, Sungai Kebun Village Councils and Ikatan Persatuan Belia Bunut that started at Damuan Recreational Park and ended at Kampung Bunut Mosque. The four-kilometer walkathon was held on March 4.

While a Drawing and Colouring Competition was held on March 4 at Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam. This yearly event was divided into seven categories.

On February 25, the 18<sup>th</sup> Brunei Book Fair 2012 (Pesta Buku Brunei 2012) was officially launched where by the end of the nine-day fair, it managed to attract more than 65,000 visitors. The fair was held at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

Fifty-seven local and international companies and bookstores participated in the book fair.

## One Artist One Drawing Exhibition

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 6** - As one of the methods to approach local artists and the public in general who are interested in fine art, an exhibition - One Artist One Drawing Exhibition was held at the Galeri Seni, Waterfront in the capital.

It was officially opened by the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman.

The exhibition display drawing collection since the year 1965, the work of arts by the late Awang Zainal Dato Paduka Haji Md. Daud, Awang Tarip bin Haji Ladis, Ajihis Terawih and few foreign artists namely Sarkasi Said from Republic of Singapore and Basoeqi Abdullah from Republic of Indonesia.

## Wushu, martial art displayed

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 7** - A presentation of Wushu, a martial art skill was held in front of about 300 students with the aim of exposing this sport to the community in this country.

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

The presentation was organised by People's Republic of China Wushu Association and Brunei Darussalam Wushu Association in collaboration with the Department of Youth and Sports.

The Taijiquan and Taiji Fan, Jianshu, Gunshu and Zuijian presentation was participated by around 20 athletes and professionals.

The showcase was held at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

## January 2012 Consumer Price Index

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 7** - The Consumer Price Index (CPI) January 2012 climbed 1.2 percent than January 2011.

The year-to-year increase was due to Food and Beverages increased. While the month-to-month decreased 0.3 percent than December, 2011.

The decreased was due to drop of index in Clothing and Shoes (4.5 percent), Assorted Goods and Services (0.7 percent), Accessories, Households and Routine Household Maintenance (0.6 percent).

An increased was recorded due to increase of Recreational and Cultures index (0.9 percent) and Education (0.4 percent). The index for Cigarettes, Housing, Water, Electric, Gas and Other Fuel, Communication and Restaurant also Hotel are unchanged.

The CPI full reports for January 2012 are available from JPKE's website [www.depd.gov.bn](http://www.depd.gov.bn).

## International Malay Language Debate Competition 2012

**MALAYSIA, March 8** - Dayangku Mumtazah binti Pengiran Haji Mohd. Jaafar, Final Year Student, Bachelor of Usuluddin under Tafsir and Hadith programme from Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) emerged as first runner-up at the *Pertandingan Pidato Antarabangsa Bahasa Melayu* (PABM) 2012 International Malay Language Debate Competition 2012.

The first runner-up winner in the Nusantara or Archipelago Category brought home RM3,900, trophy, prize and certificate presented by the Prime Minister of Malaysia. The competition was held at Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC) broadcasted live through Radio Televisyen Malaysia 1 (RTM 1).

Eight participants from Malaysia, Republic of Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Russian Federation, Republic of Moldova, Japan, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Republic of Latvia showed their talents at the Final Round of the debate. The participants were also involved in various activities that scheduled by the organiser namely visiting paddy field, latex field, fish ponds, cultural presentation and others.

## Brunei - Indonesia strengthen cooperation through bilateral training

**MUARA, March 19** - Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Indonesia through Royal Brunei Navy (TLDB) and Tentara Nasional Indonesia-Angkatan Laut (TNI-AL) have strengthened its bilateral cooperation particularly in the defence sector by conducting a bilateral training named Helang LAUT 13B/12.

The bilateral training was held in Brunei Darussalam from March 19 until 23. The five-day training was aimed in strengthening the relation and increasing the cooperation and understanding through the same doctrine development, operation and tactic. It also gives opportunities for both parties to exchange experience and cooperation.

This training is the 13<sup>th</sup> to be conducted where this year's training is hosted by TLDB.



## Did you know that...

- Sultan Abdul Momin was the 24<sup>th</sup> Sultan of Brunei Darussalam and he ruled from 1852 to 1885.
- Rubber seedlings were first introduced in Brunei in 1908. Meanwhile, Brunei first exported rubber to Britain and United States in 1914.
- Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park is declared a National Heritage Park in 1967 and later on November 29, 1984 it is declared as ASEAN Heritage Park.
- Crab culture was first introduced in Brunei Darussalam in year 2002.
- The total production of crab culture in Brunei Darussalam shows an increase from 0.35 tonne in 2008 to 2.73 tonne in 2010.

## >> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.

Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.

It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.

Land size is 5765 sq. km.

Population is estimated at 422,4700 people (2011).

It is divided into four districts – Brunei-Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.

Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.

Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.

National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.

It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

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

## >> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

### There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

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