



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives 'the Great Mubarak' state decoration from His Highness the Emir of Kuwait at the Royal Bayan Palace in Kuwait.

## His Majesty conferred 'the Great Mubarak' state decoration

KUWAIT, May 18 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Bestowment of the State Decoration Ceremony, which was held in conjunction with His Majesty's two-day state visit at the Royal Bayan Palace.

At the ceremony, His Majesty was conferred the State Decoration 'The Great Mubarak' by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait. His Majesty also bestowed the State Decoration '*Darjah Kerabat Mahkota Brunei*' (D.K.M.B.) upon His Highness the Emir of Kuwait.

Upon arrival at the Royal Bayan

Palace, His Majesty was accompanied by His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister of Kuwait. His Majesty was then greeted by His Excellency Sheikh Khaled Abdullah Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, the Chief Emiri Protocol and Chamberlain of Kuwait, before proceeding to the bestowment ceremony.

After the ceremony, His Majesty paid a courtesy call to His Highness the Emir of Kuwait. His Majesty and His Highness discussed bilateral cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the State of Kuwait and exchanged views on matters of common interests and mutual concerns. His Majesty was accompanied by the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, the Minister of Foreign

Affairs and Trade II and the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office. His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and several Kuwaiti senior officers were also present.

Afterward, His Majesty and His Highness witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Investment. Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abd. Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office. Meanwhile, His Excellency Anas Khalid Al-Saleh,



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## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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### EDITORIAL Advisory Board:

Mawardi Haji Mohammad  
(mawardi.mohammad@information.gov.bn)

### Editor:

Kassim Haji Abd Rahman  
(kassim.rahman@information.gov.bn)  
Ameiliatun Assyakinah Haji Abdullah

### Sub Editor:

Wahid Haji Halim  
(wahid.halim@information.gov.bn)

Ishak Haji Othman  
(ishak.othman@information.gov.bn)

Hajah Zaianit Haji Noorkhan  
(zaianit.noorkhan@information.gov.bn)

### WEB attachment student:

Asnizaitul Nadia Abdullah  
Siti Noor Aqeelah Ahmad Sanisi

### Layouter:

Hajah Zaianit Haji Noorkhan  
(zaianit.noorkhan@information.gov.bn)

### Translator:

Hajah Apsah Haji Sahdan  
(apsah.sahdan@information.gov.bn)

Haji Mirazman Haji Othman  
(mirazman.othman@information.gov.bn)

### Proofread:

Hajah Norpisah Md Salleh  
(norpisah.salleh@information.gov.bn)

### Photographs:

Photography Unit of Department of Information

### General inquiries:

Tel: (673) 2383 400/ext English News  
Fax: (673) 2382 012

### Information Department:

www.information.gov.bn

### Information Gallery:

www.infoto.gov.bn

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## >> 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 422,700 people (2012).

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

## His Majesty receives audiences



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:

1. His Excellency Hoong Wee Teck, the Police Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore on May 12. His Excellency was in the country to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> bilateral meeting and Interforces Games between the Royal Brunei Police Force and the Republic of Singapore's Police Force.
2. Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Professor Dr Mohd Yusof Noor, the President of the Council of the Islamic University of Malaysia (MUIM) on May 26. Yang Berbahagia Dato Haji Othman bin Desa, the MUIM Acting Registrar and Director of Fund, Asset and Waqf; and Yang Berbahagia Professor Dr Mohamad bin Abdul Hamid, the MUIM Dean of the Academic and International Relations were also present during the ceremony.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present diplomatic accreditation to five newly-appointed Brunei Darussalam envoys. The ceremony was held on May 21 at Istana Nurul Iman.

1. His Excellency Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mahmud bin Haji Saidin @ Haji Md Saidin, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
2. His Excellency Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Yussof bin Haji Abdul Rahman, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Indonesia.
3. His Excellency Awang Haji Ismail bin Haji Abdul Manap, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Kingdom of Thailand.
4. His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Rosli bin Haji Sabtu, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Korea.
5. His Excellency Haji Abdul Kahar bin Haji Hussin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

His Majesty also consented to receive Letters of Credence from two newly-appointed Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the country in separate audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman. They were:



1. His Excellency Cho Htun Aung, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam.
2. His Excellency Meynardo L. Montealgre, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam.

**Her Majesty receives audiences**



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman on May 25:

1. Madam Eiman A.B Kamal, the spouse of the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam.
2. Madam Nayyara Malik, the spouse of the newly-appointed High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam.

**HRH The Crown Prince receives audiences**



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 25 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, consented to receive in audience five Brunei Darussalam's newly-appointed Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Qashr Al-Meezaan. They were:

- His Excellency Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mahmud bin Haji Saidin @ Haji Mohammad Saidin, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- His Excellency Retired Brigadier General Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Yusof bin Haji Abdul Rahman Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Indonesia.
- His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Rosli bin Haji Sabtu, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Republic of Korea.
- His Excellency Awang Haji Ismail bin Haji Abdul Manap, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Kingdom of Thailand.
- His Excellency Awang Haji Abdul Kahar bin Haji Hussin, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

**His Majesty sends congratulatory messages**

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

- His Majesty King Abdullah II of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the government as well as the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the occasion of the kingdom's Independence Day on May 25.
- His Excellency David Cameron, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom following the victory of the Conservative Party in the elections and his reappointment as the Prime Minister.



Their Majesties with the Sultan of Perak and the Raja Permaisuri of Perak.



His Majesty with the Sultan of Perak.



His Majesty signing the guestbook.



Their Majesties in a group photo with distinguished guests.

**Their Majesties grace Royal Banquet**

KUALA KANGAR, PERAK DARUL RIDZWAN, May 9 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Alam consented to attend a royal banquet held in conjunction with the coronation of the 35<sup>th</sup> Sultan of Perak, Kuala Kangsar, Perak Darul Ridzwan, Malaysia.

Their Majesties were accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel

ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

Upon arrival at Istana Iskandariah, Their Majesties were greeted by Orang Besar Perak, Yang Amat Berbahagia Orang Kaya Bendahara Seri Maharaja Tun Haji Syed Zahiruddin bin Syed Hassan and Yang Amat Berbahagia Orang Kaya Temenggong Paduka Raja Dato' Seri Wan Mohd. Fathir @ Wan Fadzir bin Wan Hussain.

Their Majesties were then welcomed by Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri

Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, the Sultan of Perak and Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku Zara Salim, Raja Permaisuri of Perak. Their Majesties later consented to sign the Royal Parchment.

Afterward, Their Majesties joined the Sultan of Perak, Raja Permaisuri of Perak, Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Raja Muda Perak, Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Raja Puan Besar Perak, Duli Yang Amat Mulia Raja DiHilir Perak and Duli Yang Amat Mulia Raja Puan Muda to the 'Bilik Kuning'. They were accompanied by Duli Yang Maha Mulia the Malay

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His Royal Highness The Crown Prince with the Sultan of Perak and the Raja Permaisuri of Perak at Istana Iskandariah in Kuala Kangsar, Malaysia

### His Royal Highness The Crown Prince attends 35<sup>th</sup> Sultan of Perak coronation

KUALA KANGSAR, PERAK DARUL RIDZUAN, May 6 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, attended the coronation ceremony of Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah as the 35<sup>th</sup> Sultan of Perak at Istana Iskandariah, Kuala Kangsar, Perak Darul Ridzuan, Malaysia.

His Royal Highness was in attendance as the personal representative of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was greeted by Yang Berbahagia Orang Kaya Bendahara Seri Maharaja (Rtd) General Dato' Seri Diraja Tan Seri Mohd Zahidi bin Haji Zainuddin and Yang Amat Berbahagia Orang Kaya Temenggong Paduka Raja Dato' Seri Wan Mohd Fathir @ Wan Fadzir bin Wan Hussain.

Before proceeding to the Holding Room, His Royal Highness signed the Royal Parchment.

At the Holding Room, His Royal Highness was greeted by Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah and then proceeded to the Balaiung Seri to join Yang Amat

Mulia Raja Permaisuri Tuanku Bainun; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengerusi Jemaah Pemangku Sultan Negeri Kedah Darul Aman and Yang Teramat Mulia Puan Temenggong Kedah; Deputy Sultan of Pahang; Tuan Yang Terutama Yang Di-Pertua Negeri-Negeri and Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan-Toh Puan; Yang Amat Berhormat the Prime Minister of Malaysia and spouse; as well as other distinguished guests.

This was followed by the arrival of Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah, Sultan of Perak and Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku Zara Salim, Raja Permaisuri of Perak; together with Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Raja Muda Perak and Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Raja Puan Besar Perak; as well as Duli Yang Amat Mulia Raja DiHilir Perak and Yang Amat Mulia Raja Puan Muda Perak.

Their Majesties' arrival was accompanied with the 'Nobat Lagu Raja Berangkat'.

The ceremony began with 'Istiadat Membawa Masuk Naskhah Al-Quran'. The Sultan of Perak then received the Al-Quran presented by Yang Berbahagia Orang Kaya-Kaya Imam Paduka Tuan.

The Proclamation of the Coronation of the Sultan of Perak was read by Yang Amat Berbahagia Orang Kaya Bendahara Seri Maharaja, which was then followed by the 21-gun salute.

The ceremony continued with the 'Istiadat Membawa Masuk Pedang Cura Si Manja Kin' and the 'Daulat' was then called out three times, followed by the playing of the 'Nobat Tabal'.

Afterward, the 'Mastika Embun' and the 'Chap Halilantar' was presented to the Sultan of Perak by Toh Seri Nara Diraja.

The ceremony commenced with the proclamation of the bestowment of the title of Duli Yang Maha Mulia Raja Permaisuri by Yang Amat Berbahagia Orang Kaya Bendahara Seri Maharaja.

The Sultan of Perak then presented the 'Bunga Pencawa Pencara' to the Raja Permaisuri Perak. The 'Daulat' was then called out three times, followed by the playing of the 'Nobat'.

Later, the ceremonysaw a presentation of congratulatory messages and pledge of loyalty, first by Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Raja Muda Perak Darul Ridzuan on behalf of Raja-Raja and Orang Besar Perak and then by Yang Amat Berhormat Menteri Besar Perak Darul Ridzuan on behalf of the government and the people of Perak.

Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Sultan Perak Darul Ridzuan then delivered a *titah* (royal speech).

The ceremony concluded with the reading of Doa Selamat by Sahibus Samahah the State Mufti of Perak Darul Ridzuan.

rulers, including the Yang Di-Pertua Negeri and Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan-Toh Puan.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia and Chief Minister of Perak, and their respective spouses as well as the other royal guests were also present.

The royal banquet started with singing of the national anthem of Malaysia and the recital of Doa Selamat led by Yang Berbahagia Orang Kaya-Kaya Imam Paduka Tuan Dato' Dr. Muhammad Afifi Al-Akiti.

Their Majesties were accompanied by the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trades II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng.

The Royal Banquet was a continuation of a series of ceremonies held in conjunction with the Coronation of the 35<sup>th</sup> Sultan of Perak since May 6.

\*From page 5  
(Their Majesties grace Royal Banquet)



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel and Her Royal Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah at the royal banquet.



His Majesty and members of the royal family at the national Israk Mikraj celebration at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

### His Majesty graces national Israk Mikraj celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 16 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to grace the national Israk Mikraj celebration at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

In a *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty expressed happiness to know that students in religious schools are performing various religious activities and that their prayer obligations are recorded so that they are thoroughly exposed to *ibadah* (religious calling) and can consistently perform the prayer. His Majesty also expressed hope that this would be extended to secondary schools and higher education institutions for students to internalise these obligations.

His Majesty, in the *titah*, also upheld the significance of Israk and Mikraj of Prophet Muhammad, stating that the event provides us with an *iqtibar* (lesson).

Prophet Muhammad was invited directly by Allah the Almighty to receive the commandment to pray five times a day, His Majesty said, adding that this is different from any other ibadah that was revealed to Prophet Muhammad through Angel Gabriel.

The theme of this year's celebration, 'Prayer is our Saviour', was very much related to the efforts done in building a noble generation, His Majesty added.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Religious Affairs, The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman as well as other members of the organising committee.

The national Israk Mikraj celebration commenced with the recital of Surah Al-Mu'minun verse 1 to 11 by Pengiran Muhammad Amirul Aiman bin Pengiran Haji Marjuki, a teacher at the Islamic Studies Department at the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Meanwhile the meaning of the verse was delivered by Haji Aziman bin Haji Zaman, a religious education officer at the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Exhibition booths were also organised involving various governments and private agencies, which were intended to spread awareness of the benefits and



His Majesty and members of the royal family viewing how prayers are conducted by patients (above) and special needs students (below).



understanding of performing prayer to the public to enhance their knowledge on the proper way to worship.

His Majesty then consented to deliver a *titah* to commemorate Israk Mikraj.

The ceremony continued with a special talk by Dr. Haji Hambali bin Haji Jailil, the Dean of Student Affairs at the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College. It also saw a nasyid performance by officers and religious teachers from the Department of Islamic Studies.

Doa Selamat was read afterward by the State Mufti, The Honourable Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned to bless the ceremony.

Prior to leaving, His Majesty and members of the royal family visited the exhibitions.

\*From frontpage  
(His Majesty receives 'the Great Mubarak' state decoration)



His Majesty and the Minister of Finance II with His Highness the Emir of Kuwait.



His Majesty bestows the 'Darjah Kerabat Mahkota Brunei' upon His Highness.



His Majesty receives 'the Great Mubarak' state decoration from His Highness.



His Majesty and His Highness witnessing the exchanging of documents at a Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony.

the Minister of Finance and Minister of Commerce and Industry signed on behalf of the Government of the State of Kuwait. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II and the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office were also present.

His Majesty then proceeded with His Highness the Emir of Kuwait to the Banquet Hall for the State Banquet, which was hosted by His Highness the Emir of Kuwait in conjunction with His Majesty's two-day state visit.

Before the banquet commenced, His Highness was introduced to the Brunei Darussalam's delegation. His Majesty was then introduced to the special guests of His Highness.

His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister of Kuwait; His Excellency Marzouq Al-Ghanim, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait; Ambassadors of Asian and Commonwealth Countries in the State of Kuwait; as well as government officials of Kuwait were in attendance for the banquet.

His Majesty was accompanied by the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II and the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office.

## His Majesty in Kuwait for two-day State Visit

### His Majesty attends luncheon

KUWAIT, May 19 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a luncheon hosted by the former prime minister of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the Shuwaikh Palace, in conjunction with His Majesty's two-day State Visit.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by His

Highness. Before the luncheon commenced, His Highness was introduced to the Brunei Darussalam's delegation. His Majesty was then introduced to His Highness's special guests.

His Majesty was accompanied by the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II; and the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office.



His Majesty attends a luncheon hosted by the former prime minister of Kuwait at the Shuwaikh Palace.

### His Majesty receives courtesy call and grants audience

KUWAIT, May 18 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received courtesy calls and granted audience at separate occasions to a number of dignitaries of the State of Kuwait during His Majesty's State Visit to the kingdom.

His Majesty first received a courtesy call from His Excellency Abdul Wahab Al-Wazzan, the Second Vice-Chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

His Majesty then consented to receive in audience His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait.

Afterward, His Majesty received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, the former Prime Minister of Kuwait.

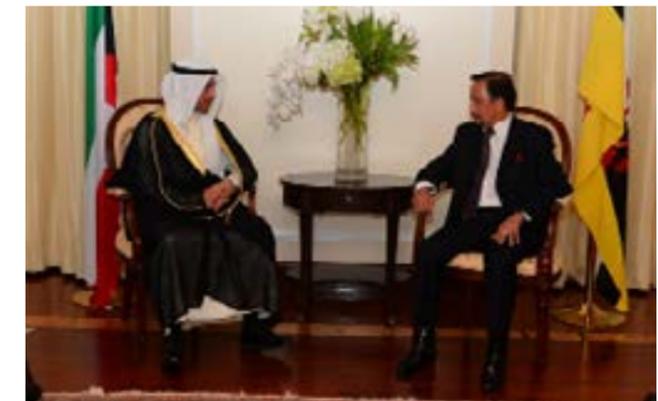
His Majesty then received His Excellency Marzouq Al-Ghanim, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait.

Lastly, His Majesty received His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister of Kuwait.

The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abd. Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office; The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II; and The Honourable Pehin Datu Singamanteri (Rtd) Colonel Dato Seri Setia Doctor Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office were present during the ceremony.



His Majesty with the Second Vice-Chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



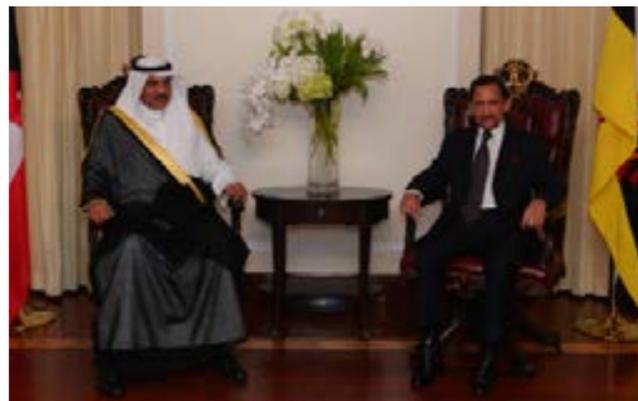
His Majesty with the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait.

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\*From page 8  
(His Majesty in Kuwait for two-day State Visit)



His Majesty with the former Prime Minister of Kuwait.



His Majesty with the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait.



His Majesty with the Prime Minister of Kuwait.

### His Majesty attends dinner



His Majesty receives a *pesambah* (gift).

KUWAIT, May 19 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a dinner hosted by His Excellency Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and the Minister-in-attendance to His Majesty, before leaving the State of Kuwait at the end of the two-day State Visit. The dinner was held at Al-Boom Restaurant, the Radisson Blu Hotel.

His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by His Excellency Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah as well as senior officials of the Government of the State of Kuwait. His Majesty then viewed an exhibition of the Kuwait Maritime Heritage.

Before proceeding to dinner at the Abdul Husain Marafie Ballroom, His Majesty received a *pesambah* (gift) from Mr. Abdul-Ilah Marafie, the Chairman of the First Hotels Company and Owner of the Radisson Blu Hotel.



His Majesty at a dinner hosted by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs of Kuwait.

The Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abd. Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng; and the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Datu Singamanteri (Rtd) Colonel Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar were also present.

### His Majesty and HRH The Crown Prince attends RBAF's 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet



His Majesty conducting the RBAF band while His Royal Highness The Crown Prince looks on.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 22 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Defence and the Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), consented to attend a banquet held in conjunction with the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RBAF.

His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and General of the RBAF.

Upon arrival at the Officers Mess of Berakas Garisson, His Majesty and His Royal Highness were greeted by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, the Deputy Minister of Defence; Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohamad Tawih bin Abdullah, the Commander of the RBAF; and Laksamana Pertama Dato Seri Pahlawan Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohamad Tamit, the Deputy Commander of the RBAF.

His Majesty and His Royal Highness were then briefed by the RBAF Commander on the RBAF personnel's new uniform. Afterward, His Majesty was introduced to Lieutenant Colonel Doctor Muhamad Hiza Wardi bin Haji Abdul Halim, the RBAF Medical Officer who just returned home after leading the Humanitarian Aid Mission Team to Nepal on April 29.

His Majesty and His Royal Highness then proceeded to the Banquet Hall for the banquet, which was enlivened with a musical performance from the RBAF Orchestra Band.

His Majesty and His Royal Highness then received greetings from the officers of the Ministry of Defence and the RBAF.

The banquet was organised by the RBAF to mark the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its formation. RBAF was formed in 1961 with its mission to safeguard peace and stability of Brunei Darussalam.

Prior to leaving, His Majesty and His Royal Highness signed a commemorative Royal Parchment.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness The Crown Prince taking a closer look at new RBAF uniforms.

### His Majesty graces foundation stone laying ceremony for Islamic Gallery

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 27 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the foundation stone laying ceremony for the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Islamic Exhibition Gallery (BPIS) at Jalan Pengiran Babu Raja.

His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was greeted by the Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman and the Minister



His Majesty signing a commemorative plaque at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Islamic Exhibition Gallery at Jalan Pengiran Babu Raja.

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(His Majesty graces foundation stone laying ceremony for Islamic Gallery)

of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim.

The ceremony began with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah by the State Mufti, The Honourable Pehin Dato Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Azizi bin Juned, which was followed by a video presentation on the design of the building and its interior.

His Majesty later laid the foundation stone and poured concrete, followed by the recital of the *'takbir'* praising Allah the Almighty three times.

A Doa Selamat was read afterward by the State Mufti to bless the ceremony.

His Majesty consented to visited the exhibition and received a briefing on the design of the Islamic Gallery by the Permanent Secretary (Technical and Professional) at the Ministry of Development, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, assisted by Toh Tsum Lim, an architect from Pei Partnership Architect, New York.

His Majesty was also briefed on its interior design by Dato Paduka Ahmad Bukhari bin Pehin Siraja Khatib Haji Abu Hanafiah, who was assisted by Jasper Jacobs of Jasper Jacobs Associates, United Kingdom.

His Majesty then signed a commemorative plaque, received a *pesambah* (gift) and joined the members of the executive committee and management of the new building for a group photo.

Founded in 2011, BPIS is placed temporarily on the ground and first floor of the Brunei Darussalam Islamic Library, Darulifta Brunei Darussalam under the administration of the State Mufti Department and will demonstrate His Majesty's vision for the gallery to be a true Islamic centre.



His Majesty receives a *pesambah* (gift).

The new building will not only enable the officials at the gallery to extend their work but also widen their knowledge in Islamic heritage by conducting research on the collected items and spreading the findings of the research to the *Ummah* (muslim community).

It will be able to house nine galleries: the Wisdom of Mukmin King Gallery, The Holy Quran Gallery, Al-Anbiya Gallery, Companions and followers of Prophet Muhammad Gallery, Knowledge Heritage Gallery, Al-Haramain and Al-Aqsa Gallery, Creation of Mankind and Universe Gallery, Mysteries of the Universe Gallery and Islamic Art and Design Gallery.

## HM: RBAF needs more qualified and tech-savvy youths

TUTONG, May 31- The Royal Brunei Army Forces (RBAF) need to have a proactive recruitment strategy to attract qualified and tech-savvy youths.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of RBAF, said in a *titah* (royal speech) at the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the RBAF at Penanjong Garrison in Tutong.

His Majesty urged for discipline and integrity to be emphasised as an important element in human resources management.

All members of the military should strengthen patriotism and portray the image and good name of the RBAF.

His Majesty emphasised that disciplinary action against any military personnel should be strictly adhered to regardless of its severity otherwise it could cause damage to military institutions.

All levels of leadership, His Majesty said, are responsible for empowering every personnel based on RBAF's core values of piety, loyalty, bravery and professionalism.

His Majesty also expressed appreciation to the people, government agencies as well as the effective role of the armed forces in always keeping Brunei Darussalam peaceful and prosperous.

His Majesty said preparedness to face threats requires the armed forces to be efficient and



His Majesty gestures to the crowd at the 54<sup>th</sup> RBAF anniversary celebration at Penanjong Garrison, Tutong



His Majesty inspecting the guard of honour.

\* Continued on page 13



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince officially launching the first AMBD Day 2015 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

## His Royal Highness The Crown Prince launches AMBD 2015 Day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 28 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, who is also Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Monetary Authority of Brunei Darussalam (AMBD), consented to attend the first AMBD Day 2015 held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The Managing director of AMBD, Awang Yusof bin Haji Abd Rahman in his welcoming remarks said that the theme of AMBD Day 2015, 'Facilitating Your Financial Future', is appropriate and fitting to the country's aspirations towards creating a financially inclusive and literate society.

It is also aligned with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's *titah* (royal speech) on the Islamic New Year 1436 Hijrah for the citizens of Brunei Darussalam to continue

moving forward in order to increase their standard of living to achieve zero poverty as well as to support one of the Brunei Vision 2035 goals.

The objective of the AMBD Day 2015, he said, is to encourage a savings culture and prudent financial management. The exhibitions involved government agencies such as Employees' Trust Fund and Brunei Deposit Protection Cooperation, the Ministry of Finance, Brunei Economic Development Board, the Local Employment and Workforce Development Agency, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Brunei Islamic Religious Council, the Minister of Religious Affairs and the Health Promotion Centre, Minister of Health.

A number of activities have also been organised including talks on understanding financial management and fraud crimes.

His Royal Highness also officiated the opening of the AMBD Pavilion, which showcases the role and functions of AMBD. AMBD also demonstrated how to use their smartphone app and how to

use the Self-Inquiry Report Services from the Credit Bureau AMBD. Afterward, His Royal Highness visited the exhibitions.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman and the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim and the Deputy Minister of the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong as well as other members of the Board of Directors.

Prior to leaving the ceremony, His Royal Highness met and greeted the Board of Directors of AMBD, heads of the participating institutions as well as AMBD officers and staff. His Royal Highness also joined the AMBD's Board of Directors and heads of the AMBD Day working committees for a group photo session.

\*From page 12  
(HM: RBAF needs more qualified and tech-savvy youths)

capable. This includes addressing and confronting any unexpected incidents that may occur inside or outside the country.

Brunei Darussalam is currently working on defence cooperation through humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping operations abroad. It requires improving the management and development of defence and military capability, His Majesty added.

This need is more pronounced with frequent external disturbances that often shake security. All these incidents undeniably have the potential to expose us to threats that are both conventional and non-conventional

Under such scenario, His Majesty expressed hope that the armed forces

would always be vigilant and in a state of preparedness at all times for the future of national defence and security.

The country, His Majesty said, also needs to be wise in planning for a robust and competent force-structure.

His Majesty believes the initiative undertaken by the Ministry of Defence in conducting a defence review is timely and able to produce a positive effect.

It is undeniable that the continued survival of the RBAF is supported by its military personnel in sufficient number and quality.

Lastly, His Majesty congratulated the armed forces on their anniversary and prayed for their protection and guidance from Allah SWT.

## HRH attends 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers



His Royal Highness at the Opening Session of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers at the Bayan Palace in Kuwait City, Kuwait.



His Royal Highness with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Diplomatic Republic of Algeria.



His Royal Highness in a group photo with other leaders.

KUWAIT, May 28 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, attended the Opening Session of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (42<sup>ND</sup> CFM) at the Bayan Palace, Kuwait City.

The Emir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah opened the session, which was chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

During the First Closed Session, His Royal Highness voiced out renewed and constant support for Palestinian brothers in their continued struggle for international justice.

His Royal Highness also expressed Brunei Darussalam's support for the new OIC Programme of Action for 2015-2025.

"We recognise the immediate challenges reflected in our theme here, and will do whatever we can to support the OIC's effort to meet them. We believe, however, that the organisations' most effective work lies in our programme of action," His Royal Highness said.

"The twentieth century was a time of nation-building on international and sometimes colonial terms. The present century, however, is already demanding a new form of nation building. It is one that is conducted on ordinary people's term and the ordinary people are demanding it.

"That is why I am very encouraged by the work being done by the Secretary General and his staff and our expert group on the new ten-year programme to make it more practical and inclusive.

"Brunei Darussalam fully supports it and we feel it is the best way to offer our people renewed hope for peace, protection and lasting security," His Royal Highness said.

His Royal Highness also congratulated the government and people of Kuwait on their chairmanship as well as His Highness Amir Sheikh Sabah and the State of Kuwait on the honours conferred upon them.

Alongside the session, His Royal Highness joined other ministers for an official luncheon hosted by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait. His Royal Highness also attended the Special Session on 'Effective Strategy to Combat Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Islamophobia'.

His Royal Highness also held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Ramtane Lamamra, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Diplomatic Republic of Algeria.

## HRH receives Republic of Kazakhstan deputy minister

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 13 May 2015 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, received in audience His Excellency Askar Mussinov, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan and discussed current bilateral relations.

His Excellency was in the country on a one-day visit.



His Royal Highness with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

## HRH presents badges to 352 new girl guides members

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 10 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bokliah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah presented tenderfoot badges, pre-warrant and warrant cards to 352 Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association (PPPBD) members at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Her Royal Highness was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

The Chief Commissioner of PPPBD, Dayang Hajah Siti Hafsa binti Haji Abdul Halim in her welcoming speech stated that the new members of PPPBD comprised 60 brownies, 239 girl guides, 28 rangers guides and eight young leaders from 19 different schools.

Prior to the new members' admission, each of them was required to pass the tenderfoot test after their three-month membership. The test is conducted by the training commissioner or co-representative as well as the unit leader of ranger guides, girl guides and brownies following each of the training programme.

According to the chief commissioner, one of the evaluations carried out once every three years by the Asia-Region Pacific of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts (WAGGGS) is the membership of its association, including the PPPBD.

PPPBD, she said, has been awarded five times from the Asia-Pacific Region for its success in acquiring a 10 per cent increase in its membership every three years.

In the 30 years that PPPBD has taken over its administration from the United Kingdom Guides, the administration committee members have made a lot of changes in administration.

She added that it is hoped the new members of PPPBD would be able to run and make several changes that follow the trend of the younger members so that the organised activities would attract and be appropriate at all times in accordance with the development of the ever-changing world.

As a member of the world organisation like WAGGGS, young members of PPPBD should always be alert in addressing the changes that are required by WAGGGS, which at this moment, focused on the involvement of its members in running the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) that are geared to education and advocacy programmes.



Her Royal Highness awarding a badge to a member of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Earlier, Her Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by Chief Commissioner of PPPBD and other high committee members.

The ceremony began with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah and Doa Kesyukuran by the Acting Senior Religious Officer at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Pengiran Alizah binti Pengiran Haji Mohd. Tahir, then followed by the singing of the national anthem, 'Dunia Pandu Puteri' and the Asia-Pacific Region songs.

It also saw pledges of allegiance by the Girl Guide and brownies led by the Honorary Secretary of PPPBD, Dayang Aida binti Haji Abdul Rahman.

The Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman; PPPBD's Deputy Chief Commissioner, Assistant Chief Commissioners, Commissioners, principals, headmasters as well as representatives of uniformed forces were also present.



## HRH visits Republic of Singapore

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, May 8 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, attended a luncheon hosted by Her Excellency Grace Fu, the Minister in The Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs and second Minister for Environment and Water Resources of the Republic of Singapore.

The luncheon was held at Tanglin Room, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore.

Her Royal Highness meets and greets officials at the Republic of Singapore.

## Pusat Amal CeraH Sejahtera launched to treat elderly patients

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 4 - The Ministry of Health launched the Pusat Amal CeraH Sejahtera (PACS) to provide nursing and rehabilitation services to elderly patients.

The health centre, which focuses on protecting elderly patients from possible infections, is relocated from the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital to its new building in Kampung Belimbing, Jalan Subok.

At the launching ceremony, the minister, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohd Yusof, said PACS would cater to the elderly who are bed-ridden at home and unable to receive medical treatment either in hospitals or

healthcare centres, specifically those suffering from Parkinson's disease and dementia.

The minister said, the centre offers services in the fields of neurology, geriatric and rehabilitation medicine and provides psychological treatment and physiotherapy for patients with chronic diseases.

He also called upon the public and families members of elderly patients to give support and cooperation to achieve optimum healthcare.

"The involvement of family members is very important. The community must work together and be responsible in giving moral support to elderly patients in receiving further treatment or rehabilitation as planned according to the condition of

these patients, to help them live better throughout their lives," said the minister.

He noted that there is a global rise in the population of senior citizens with cases of non-communicable diseases, which could challenge the health system of a country.

Thus, the country and medical practitioners must be prepared and grow alongside the patient-centred care concept, he said.

He also noted that there are currently two local geriatric consultants and one completing the geriatric course in 2016.



The Minister of Health with senior citizens at the launch of the Pusat Amal CeraH Sejahtera at Kampung Belimbing, Jalan Subok.

## Minister stresses need to diversify economy

JERUDONG, May 12 - The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar said that there is a need for Brunei Darussalam to diversify the range of products for export.

Brunei Darussalam is heavily reliant on oil and gas as the sector makes almost 67 per cent of the country's gross domestic product, represents nearly 90 per cent of the government's revenues and contributes 96 per cent of national exports, but employs less than five per cent of the workforce.

The minister said this at the opening ceremony of the International Food and Biotechnology Investment Conference, organised by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources held at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

He suggested fostering an innovative business environment and encouraging investments in research and development in order to create a dynamic and sustainable economy for future generations.

A strategic initiative to achieve these goals, he said, is the development of the Brunei Bio-Innovation Corridor (BIC). The objective is to create a park that would do research and development as well as production in the halal industry and bio-industrial sectors.

The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, through the Halal Industry Innovation Centre, has already set up several joint research programmes with foreign universities and research institutions and collaborated with industry experts in selected areas to foster a vibrant research community within BIC.

The global halal product market, the minister said, is a trillion dollars plus industry, encompassing not only food and beverages but also cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

He also touched upon Brunei Darussalam's biodiversity, both terrestrial and marine. With 70 per cent of the



The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mitsubishi Corporation Biotech Sdn Bhd.

country's total land area still covered with tropical rainforests, most of the area is still in pristine condition. With more than 41,000 square kilometres of water supporting a system of marine biodiversity, the country can offer plenty opportunities to further explore the potential to develop its biodiversity.

The International Food and Biotechnology Investment Conference, which was held for three days, is one of the Brunei Bio-Innovation Corridor initiatives that aim to achieve economic diversification, competitiveness and sustainability.

Earlier, the ceremony commenced with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah.

It was then followed by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for a 'Feasibility Study on Technical Cooperation and Research Cooperation' between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, represented by the Halal Industry Innovation Centre, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, and New Zealand Food Innovation (Auckland) Ltd, New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Ltd and Massey University, New Zealand.

Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Hasnah binti Haji Ibrahim, the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Primary Resources Development) at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources signed on behalf of the government, while signing on behalf

of the New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Ltd was its Business Development Manager, Barbara Leppan.

The Heads of Terms agreement between the government and the Mitsubishi Corporation Biotech Sdn Bhd was signed by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati binti Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr) Haji Awang Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri, and MC Biotech Sdn Bhd Director, Yuki Kaneda.

A forum was also held alongside the seminar, which was panelled by Dato Paduka Dr Haji Mohd Amin Liew bin Abdullah, the CEO of Darussalam Assets; Rajiv Biswas, the Chief Asia Economist from HIS Inc; and Xu Ning Ning, the Executive President of China-Asean Business Council. Entitled 'Asean - Challenges and Opportunities', the forum was moderated by Tamara Henderson, Senior Economist from Bloomberg LP.

The Deputy Minister of Finance, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Bahrin bin Haji Abdullah; the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati binti Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr.) Haji Awang Mohd. Jamil Al-Sufri, the Deputy Permanent Secretary and senior officials were also present at the opening ceremony.

## Brunei Darussalam to build new outpatient hospital



The Minister of Health launching the 'Master Plan for the Health System and Healthcare Infrastructure for Brunei Darussalam'.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 5 - Brunei Darussalam is working towards building a new outpatient hospital and upgrading four hospitals, as outlined in a new master plan that sets out as a blueprint to improve healthcare services.

The 'Master Plan for the Health System and Healthcare Infrastructure for Brunei Darussalam' aims to develop comprehensive health centres and expand existing health centres and clinics.

Seven key strategies have been devised in the master plan, including building healthcare facilities that will be carried out in accordance to the country's needs in the short, medium and long run.

The other strategies comprised service delivery,

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(Brunei Darussalam to build new outpatient hospital)

governance, human resource and workforce planning, finance, information technology and research, medical products, vaccines and technology.

The Minister of Health, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohd Yusof was present to launch the master plan, which had been prepared since 2012.

In his speech, he said said over

90 initiatives under five strategies recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) have received support for implementation.

Service delivery has the most number of initiatives with 19, followed by governance and human resource with 18.

He said that the master plan is historically significant as it marks another milestone towards advancing Brunei Darussalam's healthcare.

"The master plan is founded upon detailed research that is evidence-based, with international standards and recommendations from the World Health

Organisation," he said.

"The best practices focus on two important elements - a healthcare service and system strategy and a health infrastructure strategy", he added.

The ministry stated that the master plan serves as a significant roadmap that will not only support the ministry's vision, but also realising the Brunei Vision 2035 for the next 20 years.

At the launching ceremony, the minister also presented documents and posters of the master plan to the ministry's heads of department and heads of the country's four hospitals.

## Education strategy prioritises lifelong learning



The Minister of Education observing an exhibition at the closing ceremony of the first National Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Innovation Design Challenge at the Youth Centre.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 14 - Towards achieving the Brunei Vision 2035, the education strategy prioritises programmes that promote lifelong learning and wider access to higher education, encouraging research, development and innovation in government institutions and through regional and international partnerships, and adopting cost-effective methods of educating the people of Brunei Darussalam through the use of technology.

The Minister of Education, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong said the Brunei Vision 2035 aims to transform Brunei Darussalam into a country widely recognised for the accomplishment of its educated and highly-skilled people.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the first National Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Innovation Design Challenge held in conjunction with 100 years of formal education in Brunei Darussalam at the Youth Centre Hall, he explained that the ministry recognises the importance of

developing a strong supply of scientists, engineers, technologists, mathematicians, inventors and entrepreneurs.

However, the trend shows low enrolment of students in these areas at the secondary level, as is evidenced by the percentages of students who opted for science. Such percentages are still below the ministry's targeted key performance indicator (KPI), he said.

Realising this, the Ministry of Education has taken numerous steps to stimulate students' interest and raise their achievement in STEM fields of study as well as upgrading the skills of teachers in student-oriented methods of teaching STEM subjects with the guidance of international best practices.

The minister said the efforts would include research and development, teacher training and development, collaboration and partnership with industries and international organisations. In this regard, he urged school leaders to encourage more students to enrol in STEM subjects.

The 'Enhancement of Design and Technology Subjects for Government

Secondary Schools and Vocational and Technical Institutions' project is one of the platforms for students to develop their skills and knowledge in design, materials, structures, mechanisms and electronic control.

Through this project, he explained that the Ministry of Education has installed machines and Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Machine (CAM) software in secondary schools to upgrade the existing machines for Design and Technology.

The National STEM and Innovative Design Challenge is an initiative by the Ministry of Education to promote STEM subjects.

The two-day event aimed to create an enjoyable learning environment for STEM subjects and to promote careers in these fields.

A total of 16 secondary schools and technical institutions competed in the event. The involved schools and institutions are those that have implemented the 'Enhancement of Design

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## Allied Health Association unifies health experts

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 8 - The formation of the Allied Health Association is a milestone achievement for all allied health professionals in Brunei Darussalam.

The establishment of the new association has successfully united various allied health professionals under an umbrella association.

This proves that they can work together with determination, understanding and commitment to raise the level of professionalism and quality as well as the effectiveness of services to the public.

This was said by the Minister of Health, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adnan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd. Yusof at the launching of the Allied Health Association and the Allied Health Forum 2015 at the Ministry of Health.

Allied Health Profession is one of the health professions that has existed for a long time. It must follow the

development of medicine and the trend of epidemiological transition, science and technology in order to remain relevant and capable of overcoming challenges, the minister stated.

Allied health professionals, he said, constitute 18 per cent of the total number of professionals under the ministry.

Like doctors and nurses, allied health professionals are one of the main pillars and catalysts of the healthcare system in the country. Therefore, allied health services need to be continuously strengthened from time to time, he explained.

Over the recent years, we have seen several improvements and development of allied health services in terms of human resources of which more and more allied health professionals are now Master's degree and PhD holders.

However, in order to face changes as well as the ever-growing challenges in service and care, it requires readiness of well-balanced health human resources.

Allied health professionals either need to apply newly acquired knowledge or adapt and take a new role so as to be more dynamic and effective in healthcare delivery performance.

They should make use of the opportunities provided by the Government of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to continuously build on their capacity and skills through lifelong learning.

The minister said allied health professionals provide curative health care services to rehabilitation and palliative care.

In some clinical practices, Allied health professionals are the leading clinicians of care other than supporting and being involved in other health disciplinary professions, he added.



The Minister of Health at the launching of Allied Health Association at the Ministry of Health.

\*From page 17  
(Education strategy prioritises lifelong learning)

and Technology Subjects for Government Secondary Schools and Vocational and Technical Institutions' project.

Introduced in 2013, the project is the foundation for the participants of the challenge.

The challenge also requires students to use ICT and study other disciplines such as physics, aerodynamics, designs, carpentry, branding, graphics, sponsorship, marketing, leadership, teamwork, strategy, finance, and consequently practical, imaginative and competent application.

Additionally, it indirectly provides

students with the skills needed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The judges of the competition included local experts as well as coordinators from the Republic of Singapore and Malaysia.

The event also saw the prize presentation of the winners of the challenge as well as the launching of the website [f1nschools.moe.gov.bn](http://f1nschools.moe.gov.bn) by the minister.

## Ministry of Development launches Energy Efficiency Conversation Building Guidelines

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 14 – As a start towards economic and community development, Brunei Darussalam has formed the basis for a green environment to create a healthier and productive personal and professional everyday environment.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EEC) Building Guidelines are expected to realise the Green Building concept as targeted by the Ministry of Development. The guidelines take into account the methods and concepts in terms of green design, construction, operation and maintenance of new and existing buildings.

The Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman stated the matter at the launch of the EEC Building Guidelines 2015 for Non-Residential Buildings and the 'To Reduce Utilities Consumption for Buildings' roadshow, which was held at the Public Works Department headquarters in Berakas.

He explained that the guidelines are not only limited to the concept of energy saving and water conservation. They also outline various aspects such as best practices and proper installation techniques in addition to cost-effective and sustainable usage.

Green buildings reduce green house effects, use less energy, conserve water and offer a healthier environment compared to existing buildings. In addition, a green economy ensures sustainable development and infrastructure

All future construction projects (public and private) and the infrastructure sector will benefit in terms of better architectural quality, energy saving and reduction of costs and operation expenses. With the introduction of the guidelines, he estimated the energy consumption of new buildings would drop between 30 to 50 per cent.

The minister urged the public to take climate change phenomenon seriously and to partake in the efforts to reduce the effect of greenhouse gases to tackle climate change.

According to the Energy Information Administration US (EIA's), the International Energy Outlook 2013 (IE2013) shows that the world energy consumption will increase by 56 per cent between 2010 and 2040.

Meanwhile, as stated by the World Building Council, the construction sector accounts for 40 per cent of global energy consumption, 12 per cent of water usage and 40 per cent of construction waste sent to landfills. The overall percentage clearly shows how big the impact of carbon footprint is, which is polluted by the construction sector.

As a country that is developing, the minister said, Brunei Darussalam is always keen on developing its construction industry especially in infrastructure and public facilities and we do not want construction programmes to be affected by the carbon footprint pollution.

However, the effects of global warming cannot be ignored. Efforts and ideas to practice green living need to be put into

action. Thus, the Public Works Department has set up baseline measurement for schools and government buildings to reduce energy consumption.

The EEI baseline set for primary and secondary schools is 40 and 60 kilowatts an hour per square metre respectively and 175 kilowatts an hour per square metre for government buildings, which will lead to a 15 to 30 per cent reduction in energy consumption.

The initiative successfully saved between 15 to 30 per cent energy at the Ministry of Development building and its departments at a "no cost investment". It involved reducing the use of air-conditioners and increasing the temperature of air-conditioners without affecting the comfort level of personnel in the building.

The Ministry of Development has managed to conserve at least 1.5 megawatt-hours or BND150,000 since 2012, the minister said.

This initiative will be extended to other government buildings through briefings and roadshows under the theme 'To Reduce Utilities Consumption on Building'.

Although government buildings will be obligated to comply with the EEC guidelines, it will be voluntary for the private sector for an indefinite period of time.

With the introduction of the guidelines, the Public Works Department is currently preparing a green rating system called Brunei Accredited Green Unified Seal (BAGUS) to assess existing buildings in terms of sustainability, durability and greenness.

The minister also urged all industry players to work together in realising the 'Green Building' as stated in the 'Energy Efficiency Building Guideline' and as reported in C40 CITIES 'study on global survey on Building Energy Efficiency in cities'.

The stakeholders will enable first introductions to be made to proposed programmes, besides establishing close cooperation among industry players to facilitate implementation and compliance of implementation rules.

The minister expressed hope that the implementation of the EEC guidelines in addition to the openness and readiness in accepting changes would guarantee a better future for all generations to come.



The Minister of Development at the launching of 'To Reduce Utilities Consumption for Buildings' roadshow at the Public Works Department headquarters in Berakas.