



ASEAN Leaders' Meeting: Advancing ASEAN Community building



JAKARTA, April 24 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, chaired the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting, which was held at the Bali Room, ASEAN Secretariat Building, Republic of Indonesia.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Majesty's son, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Continue on page 4

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam chairing the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting.

Ensuring ASEAN community continues to thrive

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 20 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the Chair of ASEAN for 2021, was invited by His Excellency Li Baodong, Secretary General of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), to deliver a special *titah* (royal speech) via recorded video at the Opening Plenary of the BFA Annual Conference 2021 in Boao, People's Republic of China.

Continue on page 7

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech).





7. Official visit of the Prime Minister of Malaysia



13. Vaccines used are safe, effective, and of quality



14. Be grateful of the Almighty's blessing



15. National Level Nuzul Al-Quran: Celebration for 1442 Hijrah Al-Quran brings healing, happiness



18. Committed in realising economic development



21. Diversify domestic investment opportunities



22. Commemorating Anzac Day



23. Commencement of National Vaccination Programme for COVID-19



24. Ministry of Health signs with Gleneagles JPMC



26. Department of Information records historical milestone



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Their Majesties receive audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and spouse, Yang Amat Bahagia Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman at Cheradi Laila Kenchana on April 5.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam with Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and spouse, Yang Amat Bahagia Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen with Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah as well as other members of the royal family.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Salleh Ab. Rahaman, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah, and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah (top).



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatull Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-At-Large at Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

His Majesty sends congratulatory message

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send a congratulatory message to His Excellency Nguyen Xuan Phuc following his appointment as President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and to Pham Minh Chinh following his appointment as Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on April 7.

His Majesty sends messages of condolences

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

- His Excellency Dato Iaila Utama Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, the government as well as the people of the Republic of Indonesia; and also to His Excellency President Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste; and His Excellency Taur Matan Ruak, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, following the recent flash flood and landslide caused by Cyclone Seroja which resulted in the loss of life and damage to properties on April 7.
- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and to His Excellency The Right Honourable Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister of United Kingdom, following the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh on April 9.
- His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, the government and the people of the Republic of Indonesia following the KRI Nanggala-402 submarin incident that resulted in the loss of lives of its 53 crew in the Strait of Bali on April 26.

From page 4



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and His Excellency Secretary-General of ASEAN in a group photo.

ASEAN Leaders' Meeting: Advancing ASEAN Community building (continued)

From page 1

During the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting, His Majesty in his *titah* (royal speech) acknowledged that this is an important time for the region as ASEAN is looking to advance its community building, recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as address pressing regional developments.

Aside from that, His Majesty also welcomed the ASEAN Secretariat's recommendation to accept the United Kingdom's application to become a Dialogue Partner of ASEAN; and proposed to facilitate the United Kingdom in becoming a dialogue partner at the 5th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM).



Continue on page 5

His Majesty then expressed appreciation for the support of ASEAN Member States for Brunei Darussalam's Chairmanship of ASEAN this year, under the theme "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper".



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being greeted on arrival at the ASEAN Secretariat Building by His Excellency Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN. Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

In addition, His Majesty also extended his support for the procurement of vaccines for the people of ASEAN through the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund. In facing future uncertainties, His Majesty emphasised the importance for ASEAN to continue strengthening its unity and centrality through efforts that are people-centred and focus on the youth by instilling a continued sense of belonging to the ASEAN Community.

On external relations, ASEAN should continue to take a proactive approach and be seen as leading the process, which includes holding the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meetings with the People's Republic of China and the United States.

At the meeting, His Majesty stated that ASEAN Member States have been following developments in Myanmar, and at the same time have continued to respect the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter.

His Majesty recognised that regional stability is vital for the greater peace and prosperity of the people in ASEAN. In this regard, His Majesty noted the outcomes of the Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting which was held recently, which

called for all parties to refrain from further violence and to seek a peaceful solution in Myanmar as well as to continue efforts in the Rakhine State.

In relation to this, ASEAN Member States expressed readiness to assist Myanmar through ASEAN mechanisms with the good offices of the Chairman of ASEAN and the Secretary-General to mediate between all parties concerned, based on ASEAN's long history with past experiences to draw upon on how to help

Myanmar.

At the end of the *titah*, His Majesty expressed appreciation for the constructive comments, positive contributions and ideas from ASEAN Member States on this matter. To this end, His Majesty hoped to continue in this spirit of close cooperation and coordination as ASEAN Member States work to overcome challenges as a family in ASEAN.

Continue on page 6



His Majesty chairing the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting which was held at the Bali Room, ASEAN Secretariat Building, Indonesia.

ASEAN Leaders' Meeting: Advancing ASEAN Community building (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih 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 His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen before leaving Jakarta after the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting.

From page 5

After the meeting, a Chairman's Statement on the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting was issued. The ASEAN Leaders' Meeting is a significant milestone for ASEAN as it was held at the ASEAN Secretariat for the first time since the establishment of ASEAN on



Prior to leaving the hotel, a *doa selamat* was recited by Yang Berhormat the State Mufti. Also present were Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; and Yang Berhormat Second Minister of Foreign Affairs.

August 8, 1967.

In the afternoon, His Majesty left Jakarta after chairing the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting.

Courtesy call from Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during a courtesy call from His Excellency Phạm Minh Chính, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

JAKARTA, April 24 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received a courtesy call from His Excellency Phạm Minh Chính, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, which took place at Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Also in attendance was His Majesty's son, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul

Mateen.

During the courtesy call, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam discussed bilateral cooperation between both countries as well as exchanged views on regional issues of mutual importance, including sharing of experiences in handling the COVID-19 pandemic; promoting trade and investment; as well as cooperation

in agriculture and energy. In addition, His Excellency also expressed the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam's full support to Brunei Darussalam as ASEAN Chair in 2021, towards collectively achieving the intended deliverables.

At the courtesy call – which marks the first meeting between the two leaders – His Majesty also congratulated His Excellency on his recent appointment as the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

Four-Eye Meeting: Discuss bilateral cooperation



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih 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 Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the Prime Minister of Malaysia during the Four-Eye Meeting.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 5 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held a Four-Eye Meeting with Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the Prime Minister of Malaysia at Cheradi Ratna Kenchana to start the 23rd Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

During the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Yang Amat Berhormat discussed matters of bilateral, regional and international cooperation.

Continue on page 8

Ensuring ASEAN community continues to thrive (continued)

From page 1

His Excellency President of the People's Republic of China and other state leaders from Asia-Pacific countries also delivered pre-recorded speeches at the Opening Plenary of the Conference. His Excellency Wang Qishan, Vice President of the People's Republic of China attended the conference.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in the *titah* noted that this year is another milestone in the history of relations with the People's Republic of China as this year marks the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-China dialogue relations as well as the establishment of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and People's Republic of China.

During this difficult time, ASEAN has shown its solidarity and joined hands to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic, without losing sight of the integration efforts.

His Majesty stated that Brunei Darussalam, as the Chair of ASEAN for 2021, has the honour to lead the region towards economic recovery. The theme, "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper" affirms ASEAN's collective commitment to care for its people and prepare for future challenges and opportunities, with the goal of ensuring that the whole ASEAN Community can sustainably prosper.

His Majesty said that under the ASEAN Economic Community, Brunei Darussalam's 13 Priority Economic Deliverables show ASEAN's determination in focusing its efforts towards the region's economic recovery post-pandemic, while leveraging on new technologies and digitalisation to ensure sustainable economic growth in ASEAN.

The signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) last year not only demonstrated the concerted efforts of

its member countries towards advancing international trade cooperation, but it will also help to strengthen regional recovery efforts.

His Majesty further said the Belt and Road Initiative would further complement the revitalisation of their economies, adding that it is a significant plan that would contribute to regional connectivity and further enhance the economic landscape, and that it could also present opportunities to work together in many areas and through sub-regional forums such as BIMP-EAGA.

Before concluding the *titah*, His Majesty looked forward to the continuous strengthening of ASEAN-China cooperation to maximise the prospects and efforts towards achieving regional sustainable economic growth.

The BFA Annual Conference 2021 was held on April 18 - 21 and coincided with the 20th Anniversary of the Forum. The theme of this year's forum, "A World in Change: Join Hands to Strengthen Global Governance and Advance Belt and Road Cooperation".

Jointly initiated by 29 Asia-Pacific countries in February 2001, BFA serves as a high-level platform of dialogue bringing together more than 2,000 delegates from governments, businesses, media, academic institutions and international organisations from Asia and beyond, including leaders from host country People's Republic of China and other economies, to share their insights and proposals on the development of Asia and the world.



The Opening Plenary of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2021 in Boao, People's Republic of China.

OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

From page 7

Brunei and Malaysia sign MoU



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 witnessing the signing of the MoU and Letter of Acknowledgment between the two governments together with Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia. Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 5 - The signing of both Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the Letter of Acknowledgement between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Government of Malaysia took place at Baitul Mesyuarah, Istana Nurul Iman.

The signing took place shortly after the Four-Eye Meeting between His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri

Muhyiddin Yassin.

At the ceremony, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam witnessed the signing of the MoU and Letter of Acknowledgment between the two governments together with Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Signing the MoU between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia on Cooperation in Disaster Management on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof,

the Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and signing on behalf of Government of Malaysia was Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.

Meanwhile, the Letter of Acknowledgement between the Brunei National Unitisation Secretariat and Petroleum National Berhad (PETRONAS) was signed by Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw, the Acting Minister of Energy, on behalf of His Majesty's government and signing on behalf of the Government of Malaysia was Tengku Muhammad Taufik Tengku Kamadjaja Aziz, the President and the Chief Executive Officer of PETRONAS.



Yang Berhormat Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Yang Berhormat Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia signing the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Disaster Management.



Yang Mulia Acting Minister of Energy and the President and the Chief Executive Officer PETRONAS signing the Letter of Acknowledgement between the Brunei National Unitisation Secretariat and Petroleum National Berhad (PETRONAS).

Joint Statement: Maintaining socio-economic stability

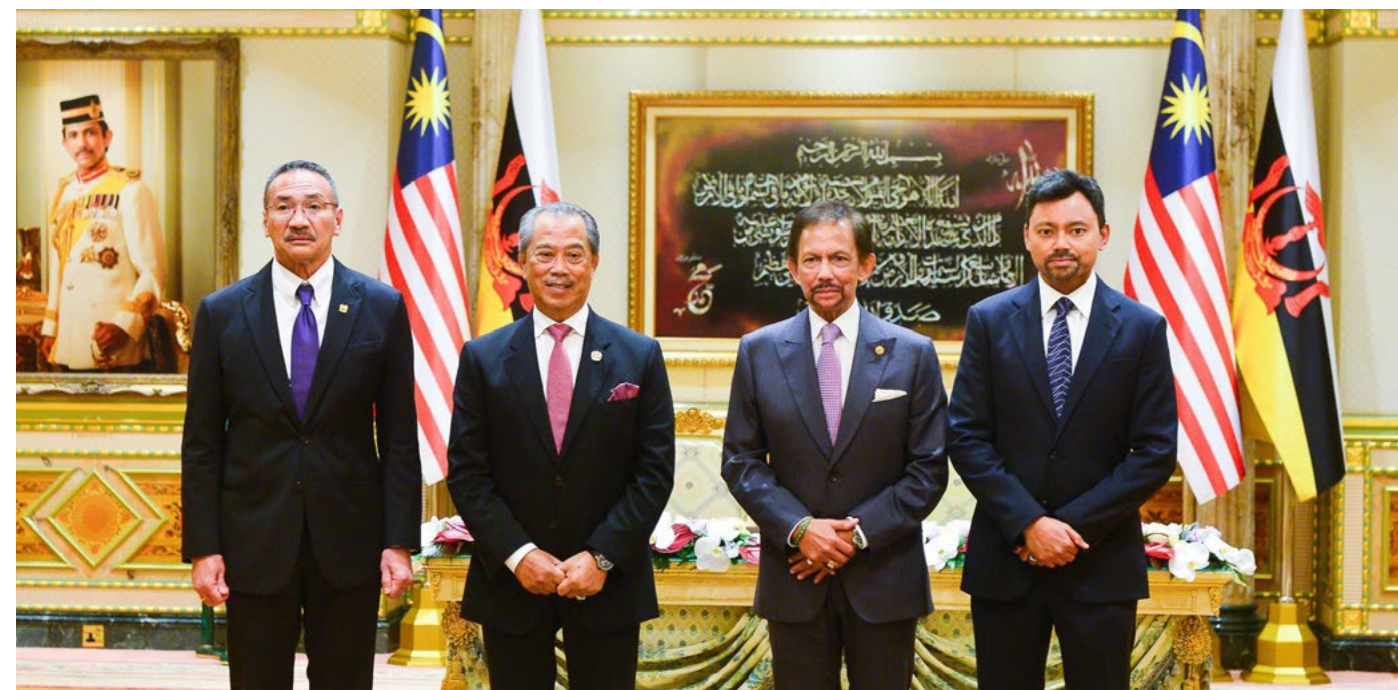
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 5 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, agreed to strengthen its commitment in addressing the common challenges of COVID-19 towards revitalising and

protecting the socio-economic stability of both countries as well as their respective peoples.

These include reciprocal vaccination management for citizens of both countries; agreed in principle to establish a Reciprocal Green

Continue on page 9

From page 8



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the Prime Minister of Malaysia; His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; and Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.

Lane (RGL) to facilitate the movement of essential business and official matters between the two countries; and the repatriation of their citizens stranded in both countries and other countries.

The matter was emphasised by the two leaders in a Joint Statement after the Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a Letter of Acknowledgement between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with the Government of Malaysia in conjunction with the Official Visit of the Prime Minister of Malaysia and the 23rd Annual Leaders' Consultation, which took place at Baitul Mesyuarah, Istana Nurul Iman.

The leaders also underlined the importance of enhanced connectivity with the opening of the Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Bridge which facilitates greater international trade and investment opportunities between Brunei Darussalam and

Malaysia as well as the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area.

In addition, Malaysia reaffirmed their full support and cooperation to Brunei's theme as the ASEAN Chair "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper" which leverages on ASEAN's caring nature to build a harmonious and resilient ASEAN Community by focusing on its people; prepare and adapt to future challenges and threats to ensure that ASEAN remains relevant and resilient; and creates opportunities for people to benefit through initiatives that enhance the sustainability and prosperity of the region.

The leaders also exchanged views on the ongoing crisis in the Union of Myanmar and further expressed hope for a peaceful solution and constructive dialogue to achieve peace, security and stability in the region. Towards this end, the leaders reaffirmed ASEAN's readiness to assist the Union of Myanmar.

Fighting the coronavirus outbreak together

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 5 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam attended an Official Luncheon with Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the Prime Minister of Malaysia and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman.

Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; as well as other members of the royal family.

During the Luncheon, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech). His Majesty in the *titah* said that Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia, as well as other countries, are still at the level of caution and vigilance in the face of handling this wave of pandemic. In addition to following the normal SOPs as prevention protocol, Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia are also

seen not ignoring the 'Divine Vaccine', which are *zikir* and prayer to Allah the Almighty for the immediate freedom from this pandemic.

"This is the advantage or uniqueness of our country and people in facing and dealing with this terrible disaster," said His Majesty.

His Majesty expressed his gratitude to Allah the Almighty because both countries continue to work together to fight this coronavirus pandemic.

His Majesty greatly appreciated the decision of Tan Sri's government in allowing Bruneian people to make a stopover through Malaysia as well as the help given to bring back Bruneians stranded abroad.

Continue on page 10

OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

From page 9

Fighting the coronavirus outbreak together (continued)

“This is a reflection of deep understanding, as the result of a friendship that is characterised by similarities in culture, language and religion,” said His Majesty.

His Majesty believed that this noble relationship would be further strengthened by the factors of the ‘kinship’ of the royal family and the friendship between the government and the people of both countries.

Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia continue to enjoy cooperation in various fields, including trade, defence, education and health.

This is a sign that the signatories as well as the agreement we have reached will further strengthen the existing relationship.

“I am confident that this can be an easiest way to recover the economy quickly after the Coronavirus outbreak,” said His Majesty.

In the *titah*, His Majesty took the opportunity to congratulate Malaysia for its success in chairing the APEC meetings last year.

His Majesty stated that under the leadership of Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri, APEC has successfully launched the Putrajaya Vision 2040 towards creating a peaceful, open and resilient Asia-Pacific economic community.

His Majesty further said that, as the



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech).

chairman of ASEAN, Brunei will focus its attention and efforts towards improving the regional situation and ensuring the achievement of the ASEAN vision 2025.

“We greatly appreciate Malaysia’s support for Brunei as the Chairman of ASEAN this year,” said His Majesty.

The *titah* was followed by a speech from Yang Amat Berhormat. Yang Amat Berhormat in his speech stated that the close cooperative relationship, especially in the economic field will be further enhanced and strengthened between



Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the Prime Minister of Malaysia delivering his speech.

Brunei and Malaysia, especially with Sabah and Sarawak.

Earlier, Yang Amat Berhormat highlighted that Brunei is a very important neighbour and friend to Malaysia.

“Diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Brunei which existed since 1984 has its origins in Malay and Islam that has more benefits to both countries,” said Yang Amat Berhormat.

Continue on page 11



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkhiah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkhiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkhiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkhiah during the Official Luncheon.

From page 10

During these 37 years, Yang Amat Berhormat said, this special relationship has opened a way for bilateral cooperation in various fields including trade, defence, education, tourism, sports and more.

Apart from this existing cooperation, Yang Amat Berhormat also appreciates the various forms of assistance extended by the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, especially when the world is in a difficult time challenging in the COVID-19 outbreak.

“Brunei was one of the first countries to come forward to provide assistance to Malaysia. I express my gratitude for His Majesty’s concern with the contribution of 1,000 units of COVID-19 test kits to Malaysia which has been received through the High Commission of Brunei Darussalam in Malaysia. The contribution benefited the use of Malaysian Medical Research Institute and subsequently the people of Malaysia,” said Yang Amat Berhormat.

Yang Amat Berhormat and all Malaysians will never forget the services rendered by His Majesty’s Government in the successful cooperation to bring back Malaysians and Bruneians stranded abroad, such as in Arab Republic of Egypt, the Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of India, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to return to their homeland.

At the same time, Yang Amat Berhormat also expressed his appreciation for all the assistance and facilities provided to Malaysians who now live in this beautiful country.

In his speech, Yang Amat Berhormat understood that more than 20,000 Malaysians who are in this country whether working, studying and doing business, appreciate and enjoy the



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkhiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkhiah and Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia during the Luncheon.

prosperity and peace of Brunei under the auspices of His Majesty.

Yang Amat Berhormat also took the opportunity to express his gratitude for His Majesty’s consent and generosity involving Malaysians as recipients of vaccines for free in this country.

“This good news will definitely bring great meaning to Malaysians who are currently residing in Brunei. I am also pleased to inform that just like Brunei, Malaysia through the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme launched on February 24, also involves foreign nationals that also gives benefits to Brunei citizens residing in Malaysia,” said Yang Amat Berhormat.

“Apart from that, I am also very pleased with the readiness of the Brunei Government to intensify discussions on the Reciprocal Green Lane with Malaysia

so that it can be signed in the near future. Malaysia believes that the implementation of this Reciprocal Green Lane will be able to revitalise the economies of both countries and put them on the right track in the recovery process,” said Yang Amat Berhormat.

Taking into account the interdependence between both countries, Yang Amat Berhormat hoped that the visit would be followed by joint efforts to further strengthen existing bilateral cooperation as well as explore new opportunities in various field in the future.

Yang Amat Berhormat also took this opportunity to express his appreciation to His Majesty and the Government of Brunei Darussalam for the willingness to receive the visit of Yang Amat Berhormat and the delegation this time.

Continue on page 12



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-At-Large at Minister of Foreign Affairs (right); and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam (left) during the Luncheon.



The recitation of a *doa selamat* by Yang Berhormat the State Mufti.

OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

From page 11

Fighting the coronavirus outbreak together (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *tital* during the Official Luncheon Ceremony. Also in attendance were Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the Prime Minister of Malaysia and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman; and 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 binti Pengiran Salleh Ab. Rahaman.

On this occasion, Yang Amat Berhormat offered his highest congratulations to His Majesty and Brunei Darussalam on the 37th National Day Celebration on February 23.

"Similarly, I pray for smoothness and ease in the ASEAN Brunei Darussalam Chairmanship for 2021. I would like to express the

strong support and undivided cooperation from Malaysia on the efforts undertaken by Brunei Darussalam as ASEAN Chair this year and I am confident on the wisdom and commitment of His Majesty's leadership to steer ASEAN to the highest level for the mutual benefit of members of the countries," concluded Yang Amat Berhormat.

Prime Minister of Malaysia ends official visit

BERAKAS, April 5 - Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the Prime Minister of Malaysia and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman and delegation left Bandar Seri Begawan after concluding the two days Official Visit and 23rd Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

Yang Amat Berhormat and delegation arrived in Bandar Seri Begawan on April 4. Present at the Brunei International Airport to welcome the arrival of Yang Amat Berhormat were His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri

Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as the personal representative of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman.

This is the first Official Visit of Yang Amat Berhormat to Brunei Darussalam since his appointment as Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Continue on page 13



His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as the personal representative of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the Prime Minister of Malaysia and delegation at the Brunei International Airport on April 4.

Vaccines used are safe, effective, and of quality



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine injection on April 1.

BERAKAS, APRIL 22 - With the consent of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has received the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine injection, therefore has completed the COVID-19 vaccination.

His Majesty received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine injection on April 1.

With the first dose of injection, His Majesty consented that the National Vaccination Programme for COVID-19 to be given to the public in stages starting from April 3.

This was announced by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, the Minister of Health during the Press Conference on the Launching of the National Vaccination Programme

for COVID-19, which took place at Dewan Al-Afiah, Ministry of Health.

As mentioned before by the Minister of Health, since August 2020, the Ministry of Health has made preparations for the implementation of the National Vaccination Programme for COVID-19 in the country.

It includes the establishment of the COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Committee to study, review and evaluate the COVID-19 vaccines that are available in the market that will be used in the country are safe, effective and with quality, based on the data and scientific studies that has been presented until now.

Based on the detailed research and evaluation, the committee has shortlisted vaccines that have met the aspects of safety, effectiveness and quality.

Following the review, the Brunei Darussalam Medicines Control Authorities (BDMCA) has granted a special authorisation for three COVID-19 vaccines to be used in the country.

This special authorisation, also known as the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) is for the prevention of the COVID-19 infection during a public health emergency or pandemic, where the purpose is to

Continue on page 14

Prime Minister of Malaysia ends official visit (continued)

From page 12



Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the Prime Minister of Malaysia and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman and delegation leaving Bandar Seri Begawan after concluding the two days Official Visit and 23rd Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. Present to bid farewell to the Yang Amat Berhormat were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs as well as Minister in Attendance.

Be grateful of the Almighty's blessing



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with celebrating the month of Ramadan 1442 Hijrah/2021 Masihi at Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 13 - Alhamdulillah, the awaited Ramadan is here again. We Muslims should be grateful for being able to welcome the blessed month of Ramadan, in which the Al-Quran was revealed and there is a night that is better than a thousand months in it.

In the past year, we have been fasting in a different environment due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus, which to this day is still happening in the world.

Vaccines used are safe, effective, and of quality (continued)

From page 13

facilitate access and for vaccinators to deal with the pandemic taking into account the high emphasis on safety, effectiveness and quality.

The three vaccines that have been given special authorisation are Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine (AZD1222); Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine (BNT162b2); and Sinopharm COVID-19 Vaccine (BBIBP-CorV).

"For the first phase, COVID-19 vaccines injection will be given to frontliners and subsequently will be extended to other groups, according to the phases outlined in the Brunei Darussalam's COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy," said the Minister of Health.

To ensure more efficient implementation of the programme, the Ministry of Health would like to remind the public

to verify their BruHealth accounts and ensure that personal information in their Bru-HIMS account is updated to facilitate the COVID-19 vaccine booking.

The Ministry of Health will inform the public when the booking of an appointment of the vaccine is available according to the stages of implementation.

"Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health would like to inform the public that as per *fatwa* issued by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti, the use of the COVID-19 vaccines is allowed (*harus*) according to *hukum syarak*," explained the Minister.

With the commencement of the National Vaccination Programme for COVID-19, the Ministry of Health will implement

post-market surveillance and will actively continue to monitor the safety profile of the vaccine as well as work with other international regulatory counterparts to ensure that the vaccines that are given are safe and effective to use.

The Ministry of Health would like to remind the public that although there are no cases of transmission among the population in the country, we are still exposed to the risk of the transmission of COVID-19 disease.

"Vaccination is the most effective measure to protect oneself, loved ones, and even the community from the harmful effects of COVID-19. In the long term, the more people are vaccinated, the higher the level of immunity of the population against the disease. This can reduce the impact of COVID-19 on public and community health," explained the Minister.

From page 14

will not prevent us from worshipping Allah. For some time last year, we had to stay away from mosques, *suraus* and religious halls for Friday prayers and other obligatory prayers in congregation, including Tarawih prayers.

"But this year, alhamdulillah, the current

situation will not prevent us from going to places of worship as usual," added His Majesty.

His Majesty prays that Allah the Almighty will grant us health to be able to celebrate Ramadan and Syawal safely and in peace. His Majesty asserted, preparations should

be moderate in accordance with the current economic situation and factors. Being frugal in spending means helping ourselves.

Before concluding the *titah*, His Majesty and members of the royal family wished the public a happy Ramadan.

National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for 1442 Hijrah: Al-Quran brings healing, happiness



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for 1442 Hijrah, which took place at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 29 - The benefits of reading the Al-Quran will not only be gained by the readers, but will also bring peace, security and prosperity to the country, said His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for 1442 Hijrah, which took place at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam further added, for that reason, we recite more *zikir* to ward off the pandemic and insyaaAllah, by embracing *zikir* and Al-Quran as our regular routine and counsel, by the grace of Allah the Almighty, Brunei Darussalam will be a truly secure, thriving and peaceful nation.

Earlier, His Majesty expressed gratitude

to Allah the Almighty for the given opportunity to celebrate the Nuzul Al-Quran celebration.

His Majesty also said that the Al-Quran is one of the greatest miracle of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam which remains preserved until the end of time. Allah's preservation of the Al-Quran is beyond doubt, so that Muslims can continue to use it as a reading and guide for life.

Just by reading it, we are able to reap the rewards, let alone if we make it as a guide and law. This is the sanctity of the Al-Quran, promising all benefits and because of that, the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is able to continuously work on the culture of reading the Al-Quran among the people and residents of Brunei through various learning and other activities.

Also attending the celebration were His Majesty's sons and brothers, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The event commenced with the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti, followed by a welcoming address by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman as Chairman of the Major Islamic Events of 1442 Hijrah Executive Committee.

His Majesty then presented prizes to the winners of the National Musabaqah Al-Quran Memorisation and its Understanding for 1442 Hijrah/2021 Masihi.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik gracing the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for 1442 Hijrah.

Continue on page 16

**National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for 1442 Hijrah:
Al-Quran brings healing, happiness (continued)**



His Majesty presenting a prize to Nurul 'Aliyah Amani binti Muhammad Al-Ameen, winner of category 'A'.



His Majesty presenting a prize to Nuramal Shofiyyah binti Irma Shukrin, winner of category 'B'.

From page 15

The winner for Category 'A' was Nurul 'Aliyah Amani binti Muhammad Al-Ameen; runner-up and third place was won by Nur Sofiyah Solehah binti Mohammad Fikri and Sharifah Ayesha Al-Insyirah binti Shaikh Sharul Azhar respectively. First place winner received cash prize of \$1,500, while runner-up received \$1,000 and the third place received \$750.

For Category 'B', Nuramal Shofiyyah binti Irma Shukrin won first place, while the runner-up and third place winners were Siti Nur Darwisyah binti Sabli and Abdul Qawiy bin Haji Mat Yamin respectively. The first place winner for this category received a cash prize of \$2,000, while the second and third place winner received \$1,500 and \$1,200 respectively.

Continue on page 17



His Majesty presenting a prize to Haji Julazni bin Haji Zaini, winner of category 'C'.



His Majesty presenting a prize to Muhammad Azib bin Muhammad Azim, winner of category 'D'.



His Majesty presenting a prize to Aqilah binti Haji Ayop, winner of category 'E'.



His Majesty and other members of the royal family at the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for 1442 Hijrah.

From page 16

While for Category 'C', the champion was Haji Julazni bin Haji Zaini, who received a cash prize of \$2,800; the runner-up was Muhammad Faiz Najwan bin Muhammad Saleh, who received \$2,000 cash prize; and third place was Nur Izzy Aziah binti Ahmad received \$1,500 cash prize.

Muhammad Azib bin Muhammad Azim won first place in Category 'D', while Siti Hafizah Al-Haziqah binti Ariffin and Ahmad Hamizan @ Ahmad Aliridha bin Haji Laidin won second and third place respectively. The winners also won a cash prize of \$3,500, \$2,500 and \$2,000 respectively.

For Category 'E', first place was won by Aqilah binti Haji Ayop, Awangku Muhammad Abdul Qadir bin Pengiran Haji Ibrahim won second place and in third place was Muhammad Faturrahman bin Awang Embran. Winners in this category brought home a cash prize of \$5,000, \$3,500 and \$2,500 respectively.

The theme for this year's National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration was "Al-Quran Asas dan Pemangkin Pembangunan Negara" (Al-Quran the Foundation and Catalyst of Nation Development).

The theme, among others, outlines that the world's affairs is one of the Fardu Kifayah imposed on Muslims as there are many necessary infrastructure in human life to attain *al-falah*, which is success in this world and the hereafter, as well as preserving the well-being of the universe. This includes human physical sufficiency and serenity of life that can be found through the balance of material needs and human spiritual needs.



His Majesty interacting with one of the participants with her family (above), and His Majesty in a group photo with one of the participants and his family (below).



The recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah led by Yang Berhormat the State Mufti.



Among the attendees of the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for 1442 Hijrah.



Committed in realising economic development

SERIA, April 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, as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Brunei Shell Joint Venture Companies consented to grace the opening of the Seria Energy Lab (formerly known as Oil and Gas Discovery Centre) and the launching ceremony of Brunei Petroleum Co. Sdn Bhd (BSP) Flagship Solar PV Plant.

This is a significant milestone for BSP to further strengthen its contribution to Brunei Darussalam's efforts towards a low carbon nation.

The launch of the BSP Flagship Solar PV plant marks BSP's strong commitment to achieving energy diversification and decarbonisation in support of the country's target of increasing the total share of renewable energy to at least 30 per cent of total power generation capacity by 2035.

At the same time, the Seria Energy Lab, through Shell's NXplorers which is a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Programme along with new exhibits aspires to enthuse students and youths on renewable energy, the environment and innovation.

The Official Opening Ceremony of Seria Energy Lab took place at the Seria Energy Lab Exhibition Hall.



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, as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Brunei Shell Joint Venture Companies officiating the opening of Seria Energy Lab.

At the event, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince officiated the opening of Seria Energy Lab and witnessed a video presentation of the Seria Energy Lab.

His Royal Highness then proceeded to view the newly-revamped exhibition on the Oil and Gas Industry along with topics focusing on energy transition and renewable energy.

The Seria Energy Lab is a science centre designed to cultivate the interest and increase the knowledge of today's youths

about the importance of renewable energy as leaders in the future.

The Seria Energy Lab consists of five new exhibitions, including an interactive showcase on smart drilling technology, an Aqua lab as the main exhibition highlighting life under the oilrig and a helicopter simulator experience based on BSP's own aircraft services at Anduki Helicopter Field.

The renewable of Seria Energy Lab is managed and operated entirely by locals.

In line with the current circulation of the world and Brunei's aspirations in energy transition, the Seria Energy Lab is designed to reflect the current energy industry from the oil and gas and renewable energy sectors.

The centre also aims to emphasise the importance of interactive teaching in the field of STEM and to foster more interest among students to venture into those fields.

The centre is also part of a programme under BSP's Social Investment, which is also one of BSP's commitments to contribute to the development of the country, especially in the field of education.

His Royal Highness then officiated the opening of BSP's Flagship Solar 3.3 Megawatt Photo Voltaic Plant and was later briefed about the Solar Power Plant Project.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince on the helicopter simulator.

Continue on page 19

From page 18

The BSP 3.3 Megawatt Photo Voltaic Solar Power Plant located at G11, Jalan Tengah Seria, uses the latest solar panel technology and is the second solar power plant in the country.

The construction of the plant took about seven months and nearly 7,000 solar panels were installed on four hectares of land.

The plant generated energy for the first time on March 30 and the amount of solar energy produced is comparable to the energy consumption of 600 households per year and will offset part of the energy used by BSP Headquarters.

At the national level, the energy generated will contribute to Brunei's target of producing a total of 100 Megawatts of renewable energy by 2025.

With almost 90 per cent of BSP's workforce being locals, the project will also be used



His Royal Highness interacting with students.

as an initial foundation in developing the skills and abilities of local employees in the field of renewable energy.

Through the project, two learning events

were presented at Universiti Brunei Darussalam and Universiti Teknologi Brunei to provide opportunities for students to gain knowledge about the solar energy industry.



His Royal Highness being briefed on the Solar Power Plant Project.



His Royal Highness interacting with the Project and Asset Teams.

The Big Wall features iconic Kampong Ayer

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 11 – A large magnificent painted mural created by Guerrilla Architects Studio, Shop and Gallery has enlivened and beautified even more the capital of the country.

Continue on page 20

Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs officially inaugurating the third phase 'The Pedestrianisation of Jalan Roberts and Adjacent Alleyways' project, also known as The Big Wall.



The Big Wall features iconic Kampong Ayer (continued)

From page 19

Guerrilla Architects Studio, Shop and Gallery were given the opportunity by the Ministry of Home Affairs to plan and complete the third phase of 'The Pedestrianisation of Jalan Roberts and Adjacent Alleyways' project, which is also known as The Big Wall, featuring a painted mural on the wall of the Lot 155 building.

'The Pedestrianisation of Jalan Roberts and Adjacent Alleyways' project is an initiative of the Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) Municipal Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), together with the Ministry of Development (MoD), and was officially inaugurated by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Ir. Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development.

The concept behind The Big Wall showcases elements of Brunei Darussalam's national identity, such as the iconic Kampong Ayer, tropical rainforests and others, designed with a combination of various colours.

With the involvement of 10 artists; six from Guerilla Architects and four invited artists, the mural was completed in a three-week period (from 17 December 2020 to 8 January 2021).

The project was also completed with the support of the BSB Municipal Department and the Public Works Department as well as the involvement of several agencies.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs and Yang Berhormat Minister of Development in a group photo with local artists involved in the third phase 'The Pedestrianisation of Jalan Roberts and Adjacent Alleyways' project, also known as The Big Wall.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Development presenting a certificate to one of the local artists in making the project a success.

Diversify domestic investment opportunities



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs delivering his speech at the launching ceremony of the Islamic Window and Islamic Fund Standard Chartered Securities.

JERUDONG, April 12 - The Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) continues to play an important role in developing Islamic finance as one of the components of Brunei's financial ecosystem, which also includes providing a regulatory framework and thriving and effective supervision based on the financial system, in addition to being able to accommodate new business opportunities.

The matter was stated by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs, who is also the Deputy Chairman of AMBD at the launching ceremony of the Islamic Window and Islamic Fund Standard Chartered Securities which took place at the Indera Samudera Hall, The Empire Brunei.

According to the Minister of Home Affairs, among the efforts made by AMBD was the introduction to Syariah Governance Framework to strengthen the governance, integrity and operation of Islamic finance institution as well as the successful issuance of AMBD Islamic Bills.

In this regards, AMBD also plans to launch Retail Sukuk in addition to diversifying domestic investment opportunities, reduce the cost of issuing Sukuk by providing standard legal templates besides promoting and leveraging Syariah based financial technology by Digital Takaful or Syariah Based Robo-Advisory. AMBD also remains committed to realising Islamic financial values in the country.

Globally, said the Minister, the Islamic financial industry contributed double-digit growth in 2019, an increase of 14 per cent to USD2.88 trillion, according to the ICD-Refinitive Islamic Finance Development Report 2020 : Progressing through Adversity. This shows the strength of Islamic finance with low oil prices background across the world economy.

From 2019 to 2020, investors' participation in investment funds showed an average increase of 61.6 per cent year-on-year, where about 20 per cent of total investments are in Islamic funds. In terms of fund offerings, only seven per cent of the funds offered are Syariah compliant. Accordingly, it is hoped that financial institutions will be able to meet this growing demand, especially in Islamic funds.

The Minister further added, the introduction of Islamic Window aims to promote Islamic financial handling and facilitate progress towards a complete Islamic financial business to enable the offering of various types of investment products and services to investors seeking Syariah compliant investments while encouraging competition among financial institutions in this country.

The journey towards advancing Islamic finance is certainly facing various challenges but initiatives undertaken collectively to advance development in this field will provide satisfaction and benefits for all.

This requires not only the ability of regulators to give way through policies and regulations but also the necessary coordination and support from the local financial industry to implement new innovative ideas as well as financial consumers to drive demand for Islamic finance.

Continue on page 22



Among the guests present at the launching event.

Diversify domestic investment opportunities (continued)

From page 21

The Minister praised Standard Chartered Securities' effort to recognise opportunity in the Islamic capital market aside from understanding the benefits of the country as a *zikir* and Islamic nation. He also expressed satisfaction to see participation and contribution from the financial industry in that endeavour, not forgetting AMBD and Syariah Financial Supervisory Board's (SFSB) effort to make it a reality.

In this regard, the Minister hopes to see more collaboration and increased contribution of other financial institutions in the development of the Islamic capital market and the economy as a whole.

In the near future, the Minister would like to see an increase in existing financial institutions in providing more Islamic investment products such as the issuance of corporate Sukuk as well as expanding into other Islamic investment businesses.

In industry first Standard Chartered Securities, a subsidiary of Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), achieved another significant milestone as the first approved capital market services licensee in the country to conduct Islamic investment business through Islamic Window.

Pengiran Aki Ismasuffian bin Pengiran



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs during the launching of Standard Chartered Securities Islamic Investments, which took place at The Empire Brunei.

Haji Ibrahim, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of SCB in his speech stated that this marked an important achievement for Standard Chartered and financial sector in Brunei Darussalam to become the first Islamic Window approved by AMBD and Syariah Financial Supervisory Board (SFSB).

He also added that SCB is a market leader in Wealth Management that has made offers in the nation for more than 20 years. Following the implementation

of Securities Market Order, Standard Chartered Securities was established as SCB's subsidiary in 2016 and has made significant progress since then to date, including offering Syariah-compliant investments in the market.

Standard Chartered Securities has a common goal of driving trade and prosperity in the markets where in which they operate by providing solutions based on a good understanding of customers' needs and beliefs.

Commemorating Anzac Day

MUARA, April 25 - More than 50 citizens of Australia, New Zealand and Brunei Darussalam as well as international guests gathered at the Brunei-Australia Memorial at Muara Beach in conjunction with Anzac Day, a remembrance day for Australians and New Zealand men and women who had served in their nations' armed forces.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence and Her Excellency Tiffany Anne McDonald, High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam attended the event.

Brunei Darussalam and Australia have long-established close ties and cooperation in various fields including defence. The defence ties has existed since Australia's 9th Division landed in Brunei Darussalam on June 10, 1945, as part of the campaign to liberate Borneo and ended the Japanese occupation in the country during the Second World War.

At the event, Her Excellency High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam in her welcoming speech stated they have

Continue on page 23



A group photo at the Brunei-Australia Memorial at Muara Beach in conjunction with Anzac Day.

From page 22



Yang Berhormat Second Minister of Defence taking a closer look at memorial pictures of Australians and New Zealand men and women who have served in their nations' armed forces.

sent several dozen soldiers to war, however Australia has contributed peacekeeping operations and is mostly unarmed for more than three times as much.

Her Excellency added, as a country, Australia does not neglect the task of bringing peace and saving lives as Sir Neville Howse did at their own risk. Indeed, generations of Australian leaders decided that the development of peace was paramount.

"If we live in an international order based on rules where we do not accept coercion and that coercion determines the outcome of the dispute, if we choose a world where values and principles should be upheld and the right of the nation to enjoy prosperity and harmony under international law is paramount, so we have no choice but to have the courage to stand up, move forward, share the burden of security together, regional stability, so that security is maintained," said Her

Excellency.

"Service is an important thing. The courage to serve for peace is very strong. The courage to ensure our peace is something that Australia is committed to do, working with our partners in the region," Her Excellency added.

The event then proceeded with the placing of flower bouquets as a sign of respect and to commemorate the service at the memorial, followed by a recitation of the engraved 'Ataturk' at the memorial, 'Ari Burnu' 'Gallipoli', and a poem, 'Ode for the Fallen' by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey to Brunei Darussalam.

The event also witnessed the flags of Australia and New Zealand hoisted at the memorial to commemorate the services of Australians and New Zealand men and women who have been and continue to fight and serve worldwide.



Her Excellency High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam delivering her welcoming speech.

Commencement of National Vaccination Programme for COVID-19

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, APRIL 3 - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, the Minister of Health has received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital and it marked the official start of the National Vaccination Programme for COVID-19 nationwide.

In the morning session of the National Vaccination Programme for COVID-19, more than 340 people including Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Departments, senior officials, officers and staff of the Ministry of Health as well as officers comprising frontliners received vaccinations. As per a statement issued by the Ministry of Health

earlier, at this early stage, staff in health facilities will be given the COVID-19 vaccine first.

The vaccine will be given to frontline officers consisting of uniformed personnel such as the Royal Brunei Armed

Continue on page 24

Commencement of National Vaccination Programme for COVID-19 (continued)



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health receiving the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

From page 23

Forces (RBAF) and the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPf), quarantine-related officers and those involved in Control Posts such as the Department of Civil Aviation, the Royal Customs and Excise Department and the Department of Immigration and National Registration, volunteers, cabin crew and many more. About 2,000 frontliners will receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

The public is also advised not to visit vaccination centres at this time and the Ministry of Health will inform the public of the opening of orders for vaccines according to the stages of implementation.

While waiting for the opening of the booking agreement for the vaccine, the public is advised to verify their respective BruHealth accounts and ensure that their personal information in Bru-HIMS is updated to facilitate future COVID-19 vaccination bookings.

Vaccination is the most effective measure to protect oneself, loved ones, and even the community from the harmful effects of COVID-19.

However, it is important for the public to remain vigilant and continue to adopt preventative measures such as practising proper personal hygiene, coughing and sneezing etiquette at all times.

People are also advised not to leave the house if they feel unwell and to avoid visiting crowded places.

Currently, research is being done on whether vaccines can prevent COVID-19 but the main goal is to reduce the risk of serious complications that may need to be treated in the ICU or events that lead to death.

This matter was emphasised by the Minister of Health, during the implementation of the National Vaccination Programme for COVID-19 throughout the country where for the Brunei-Muara



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health in a group photo after receiving the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

District is held at the RIPAS Hospital.

According to the Minister of Health, people at high risk are people aged 60 and above who have chronic diseases such as diabetes, kidney disease and others. In fact, they need to be protected with vaccinations and depend on the type of vaccine.

“Some vaccines will be given to pregnant women while others will not, depending on the vaccine that will be given. For the frontliners, healthcare, uniformed personnel and RB pilots, they need to be protected and the Ministry of Health will try to get a thousand more doses to be given. Next, the vaccination of the elderly will also begin this month,” explained the Minister of Health.

All frontliners will be given doses of the Sinopharm and AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Health strongly encourages the public to get vaccinated because His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has agreed to receive the first dose of COVID-19 vaccination.

“I am hoping the immunity herd will achieve 70 per cent as this is the main purpose of the Ministry of Health,” explained the Minister of Health again.

The Minister also hopes that the public will be more confident and come forward to get their vaccines as we still have to live in the new norm because vaccine data shows that it can only reduce the risk of severe complications as for now.

“There is no data to show that vaccinated individuals will not get the virus. There are ongoing studies that state that it can prevent the virus but it is still a small study,” explained the Minister of Health.

Ministry of Health signs MoU with Gleneagles JPMC

JERUDONG, April 12 - The Ministry of Health (MoH) and Gleneagles JPMC Sdn. Bhd. remains committed in strengthening existing efforts towards improving healthy lifestyles, thus controlling and preventing non-communicable diseases in the country.

In that regard, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on joint ventures was signed by MoH and Gleneagles JPMC Sdn. Bhd., which will involve the implementation of three primary programmes by Health Promotion Centre (HPC) that aims to improve the health

among Bruneians, specifically in the workplace and community settings.

The event which took place at Tarindak D’Polo, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club

Continue on page 25

From page 24



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health witnessing the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Health and Gleneagles JPMC Sdn. Bhd.

was attended by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health to witness the signing ceremony.

Signing the MoU on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Dr. Haji Zulaidi bin Haji Abdul Latif, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Professional), witnessed by Dr. Hajah Norhayati binti Haji Md. Kassim, Head of HPC.

Meanwhile, signing on behalf of Gleneagles JPMC Sdn. Bhd. was Dr. Peter Tay, Chief Executive Officer, witnessed by Izzul Hamzi bin Haji Johari, Chief

Handover of contribution fund from Gleneagles JPMC Sdn. Bhd. to Ministry of Health.

Operating Officer.

At the event, MoH received a cheque amounting to \$250,000 for the joint venture with Gleneagles JPMC Sdn. Bhd. The joint venture is a continuation of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) that started since 2019 between MoH and Gleneagles JPMC Sdn. Bhd.



COVID-19: 13 new import cases recorded in April

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 30 - In April, Brunei Darussalam recorded 13 new imported COVID-19 cases, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 225.

Case 213 was announced on April 1. The case is a male, aged 49, who arrived in the country from Philippine on March 17.

Case 214 was announced on April 3. The case is a female, aged 23, who arrived in the country from Jakarta on March 21.

Case 215 was announced on April 7. The case is a female, aged 30, who arrived in the country from Bangkok through Kuala Lumpur on March 24.

Case 216 was announced on April 8. The case is a male, aged 41, who arrived in the country from Jakarta via Singapore on March 26.

Cases 217 to 219 were announced on April 9. Case 217 is a child aged 13, who arrived in the country from United Kingdom, whereas case 218 is a male,

aged 47, from Egypt and case 219 is a male, aged 55, from Europe. Both cases 218 and 219 arrived in the country on January 15 from India.

Cases 220 and 221 were announced on April 14. Case 220 is a male, aged 48, who arrived in the country from Egypt through Kuala Lumpur on April 7. While case 221 is a male, aged 35, a husband to case 215, who arrived in the country on March 24. When case 215 was confirmed positive for the SARS-Cov-2 virus on April 7, her husband’s test result was found to be negative. However, he was instructed to undergo quarantine under the Infectious Diseases Act (Chapter 204) and has undergone a routine test for the SARS-CoV-2 virus on April 12. He does not have any symptoms of infection.

Cases 222 and 223 were announced on April 20. Both cases are male, aged 48 and 46 respectively who arrived in the country from Manila on April 7.

Case 224 was announced on April 28. The

The collaboration will see the implementation of three programmes by HPC; Workplace and Health (WAH) Programme, Happy Environment and Lifestyle (HEAL) Programme, and Healthy Lifestyle Programme.

The Healthy Lifestyle Programme is intended to complement WAH and HEAL programmes in raising awareness of lifestyle risk factors including eating unhealthy foods and smoking, which are the major risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

Earlier, Dr. Peter Tay in his welcoming address stated that it was an honour for Gleneagles JPMC Sdn. Bhd. to be able to work with MoH again through the HPC in running the three programmes. This collaboration clearly reflects the values of Gleneagles JPMC’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes that has a broader health reach for all.

case is a female, aged 38, who arrived in the country from Egypt through Kuala Lumpur on April 16.

Case 225 was announced on April 30. The case is a female, aged 37, who arrived in the country from Egypt through Kuala Lumpur on April 16.

The announcements were made via press releases issued by the Ministry of Health.

As of today, the last local COVID-19 case was reported on May 6, 2020. Meanwhile, the total number of imported cases since the last one is 84.

Four hundred and thirty people are currently undergoing mandatory isolation while 17,488 people have completed mandatory isolation since March 2020.

In the past 24 hours, a total of 315 samples for SARS-CoV-2 virus have been conducted, bringing the total number of laboratory tests conducted to 120,885 tests since January 2020.

Department of Information records historic milestone



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office officiating Galeri Lentera Makmur.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office touring the gallery.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 10 – In tracing the 69 years of its establishment, the Department of Information has experienced various paradigm shifts in disseminating information to all levels of society in Brunei Darussalam.

In this regard, the Department of Information recorded another historic milestone with the Launching of the Galeri Lentera Makmur, officiated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Earlier, Awang Haji Shahrul Jeffri bin Dato Paduka Haji Ibrahim, Acting Director of the Department of Information in his welcoming speech, among others, explained that the Department of Information, originally known as the Brunei Information Service, was established on April 1, 1952.

“Alhamdulillah, the Department of Information is grateful to Allah the Almighty because with his bounty we can celebrate the 69th Information Day, this year.”

“The Department of Information is no less challenging and has gone through various changes over time. The role and function of the department is also growing in order to support the aspirations of the country. However, the original objective of the establishment, which is to channel and provide information on government policies and activities remains relevant and is still being explored to this day,” he added.

The Acting Director of the Department of Information further explained that in accordance with the vision of ‘Nurturing an Informed Society’, the department will always practise ‘responsible reporting practices’ and will follow the rules and laws enforced from time to time.

The focus of the gallery is to strengthen the good image of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam by ensuring the distribution of information with programme policies and activities as well as government initiatives to address the latest issues in a transparent, agile and effective manner.

Four aspects are highlighted in the gallery - Our King; Publications Strategy; Face to Face Communication Strategies; and Media Relations and New Media Strategies.

The existence of the Pelita Brunei Government Newspaper on February 15, 1956 was to convey information on national development plans and goals, government policies related to the lives of the people, important announcements as well as any changes related to national and public interests.

Similarly, the materials published by the Department of Information play a role in highlighting the image of the king and the country, providing understanding to the public on government policy, socio-economy, education, religion, achievements and development of the country, places of interest, history, culture, handicrafts, food and also heritage.

Through the Face to Face Communication Strategy, various national and community programmes are implemented as a two-way communication platform between the government and society, where the programme is to instil and cultivate love for the king, religion, nation and country, while strengthening the spirit of solidarity, patriotism as well the high state of the Malay Islamic Monarchy concept.

By adapting to the era of globalisation, the Department of Information is not left behind in using new media in disseminating information through the Department of Information's social platforms, such as the ‘InfoDeptBN’ Mobile Application, Department of Information's and Pelita Brunei's social media pages and Information Screens.

The Department of Information also strives to safeguard the country's image by regulating, monitoring and coordinating media and corporate relations in the country and abroad.

The public is welcome to visit Galeri Lentera Makmur on weekdays, from Monday to Thursday and Saturday, from 8.30 am to 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.