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Brunei Darussalam

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Royal speech in conjunction with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 66th royal birthday

HM: Three initiatives enhance housing welfare

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15 - Three initiatives to enhance housing welfare were announced by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty announced in a *titah* (royal speech) during the Audience and Special Investiture Ceremony from the Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana (throne chamber) of the Istana Nurul Iman in conjunction with His Majesty's 66th birthday anniversary celebrations on July 15.

The first initiative is not to impose land premium for the renewal of land lease not exceeding one acre where on such land stands a house of the owner or one to be built.

Secondly, a Housing Funding Scheme will be established to assist members of Employee Trust Fund (TAP), especially low-income earners. This voluntary scheme will qualify members to receive certain benefits such as to guarantee a certain rate of returns annually. For those with a household income which does not exceed \$4,000 a month are eligible to receive government assistance of not more than \$25,000.

Thirdly, for civil servants, the housing financial scheme under the purview of Department of Treasury will be fine-tuned and adapted to the current circumstances and needs. With the changes, loan eligibility for those who wish to build or purchase

* Continue on pages 5



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with His Majesty's 66th birthday at the Istana Nurul Iman.

BERUDONG, August 15 - The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) through the Halal Industry Innovation Centre is in the process of building an Agro Technology Park.

Hence, a signing ceremony of the contract agreement between the MIPR and the SQW China Company Limited for Consultancy Project for Master Planning and Interim Project Management for the Agro Technology Park was held at The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Signing on behalf of His Majesty's Government was the the Head of the Halal Industry Innovation Centre, MIPR, Awang Haji Sabri bin Haji Mohamad Taha; while SQW Consulting was represented by its Managing Director, Mr. Gary Ho.

Present to witness the signing was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya.

The project is one of the economic diversification strategies to provide facilities for the research and innovative technology applications, particularly in the research and halal development technologies.

Among the scope of works for the

Agro Technology Park provides research and innovative technology facilities



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Minister of Industry and Primary Resources (centre) as guest of honour at the signing ceremony.

consultancy project is to prepare a master plan for Phase Two and Interim Project Management of the project works on the Agro Technology Park. The project management aims to assist in establishing an international and local network, and in establishing a 'One Stop Shop' as well as an environment and landscape of high quality. The project is expected to be completed in 30 months.

The Agro Technology Park located in Kampung Tungku covers a land area of 500 hectares and will serve as a hi-tech one-stop industrial, community development centre. It will provide opportunities for small and medium enterprises as well as major industries to acquire industrial sites and will provide locations for laboratory and office buildings.



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PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN

His Majesty receives audiences

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

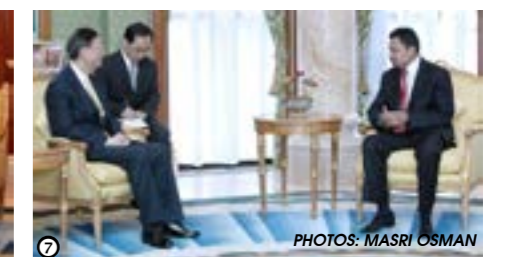
- 1 His Excellency Bruno Ferrari, Secretary of the Economy of the United Mexican States on July 12.
- 2 His Excellency Mark Douglas Sawers, out-going Australian High Commissioner on July 12.



PHOTO: HASTRAL HAZMI ABD. HAWID

Her Majesty receives audience

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 12 - Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience Mrs. Asma Ijaz Awan, spouse of the newly-appointed High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam. The audience took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.



PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezaan from:

- 1 His Excellency Saleh Mohamad Al-Nesef, newly-appointed Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam on July 5.
- 2 His Excellency Jaya Ratnam, newly-appointed High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam on July 5.
- 3 His Excellency Major General (Rtd.) Muhammad Ijaz Hussain Awan, newly-appointed High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam on July 26.
- 4 His Excellency Marcel Gourmond, newly-appointed High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam on July 26.
- 5 His Excellency Mark Douglas Sawers, out-going High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam on August 2.
- 6 His Excellency Dr. Bernd Max Morast, out-going Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam on August 2.
- 7 His Excellency Yang Jiechi, Foreign Minister of People's Republic of China on August 11.



Their Majesties receive audiences

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received audiences from invited foreign dignitaries attending the 66th birthday anniversary of His Majesty. The audience took place at the Istana Nurul Iman. They were:

PHOTOS: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



- ❶ Her Royal Highness Princess Basma binti Talal and His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Al-Sayed Walid Ismail Al-Kurdi from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- ❷ The Right Honourable Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Puan Sri Raghad Kurdi Taib.
- ❸ His Excellency Professor Dr. Ir Muhammad Nuh, Minister of Education of the Republic of Indonesia and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Ibu Laely Rahmawati M. Nuh.
- ❹ The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Paduka Dato' Seri Panglima Haji Musa bin Haji Aman, Chief Minister of Sabah and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Hajjah Faridah binti Haji Tussin.
- ❺ His Excellency Voltaire Tuvera Gazmin, Secretary National Defence of the Republic of the Philippines and spouse, Mrs. Rhodora Hernandez Gazmin.
- ❻ His Excellency Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Mrs. Teng Soon Fen.
- ❼ His Excellency Arak Chonlatanond, Minister of Energy of the Kingdom of Thailand and spouse, Dr. Benja Chonlatanond.
- ❽ The Honourable John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada.

* From frontpage
(Royal speech in conjunction with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 66th royal birthday)

a house will be increased to 60 months of the basic salary compared to current 48 months. The financial facilities will be extended for the purchase of houses using an allocation not exceeding 24 months of the basic salary.

His Majesty also announced a method of 'fast track' job promotion in a way that is not exclusive and also part of the effort of the programme in replacing Division II officers and above. The method is capable of encouraging officers who make an outstanding performance to be hard working and be committed in their work.

His Majesty also announced the sums of \$230 million were allocated for fibre-to-the-home project for comprehensive broadband infrastructure. This undoubtedly will lead to a better quality of internet development that is affordable to the public. At the same time, the development in this service will boost the country's competitiveness in attracting foreign direct investment.



PHOTO: MOHD. ZULIZZI HAJI DURAMAN



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

52 bestowed with honorary titles



One of the awarded recipients of Brunei Darussalam's State Decorations and Honorary Medals from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15 - In conjunction with the 66th birthday anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, 52 people were awarded with Brunei Darussalam's State Decorations and Honorary Medals at the Audience and Investiture ceremony.

It was held at the Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana (Throne Chamber), Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty first awarded Darjah Pahlawan Negara Brunei Yang Amat Perkasa (Darjah Pertama) (P.S.P.N.B.) or The Most Gallant Order of Pahlawan Negara Brunei First Class to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Awang Bahrin bin Mohd. Noor; followed by Darjah Mahkota Brunei Yang Amat Mulia (Darjah Pertama) (S.P.M.B.) or The Most Honourable Order of the Crown of Brunei (First Class) to the Most Honourable Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Musa bin Haji Aman, the 14th Chief Minister of Sabah; and Darjah Setia Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bahagia (Darjah Kedua) (D.S.N.B.) or The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei (Second Class) to Dato Paduka Samuel Yapp Kai San.

Nine recipients received Darjah Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Yang Amat Berjasa (Darjah Kedua) (D.S.L.J.) or The Most Distinguished Order of Paduka Seri Laila Jasa (Second Class); 11 people received Darjah Mahkota Brunei Yang Amat Mulia (Darjah Kedua) (D.P.M.B.) or The Most Honourable Order of the Crown of Brunei (Second Class); Darjah Seri Ugama Islam Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bersinar (Darjah Ketiga) (S.S.U.B.) or The Most Esteemed Order of Islam Brunei (Third Class) were awarded to three people; and 26 people received Darjah Setia Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bahagia (Darjah Ketiga) (S.N.B.) or The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei (Third Class).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 17 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri attended a banquet in conjunction with His Majesty's 66th birthday anniversary on July 15 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Prior to the banquet, Their Majesties received in audience the invited foreign dignitaries.

Also present at the banquet were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and other members of the royal family.

Meanwhile on July 17, a banquet for uniformed personnel of government department and civilian organisations was held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Banquets to celebrate His Majesty's birthday



Their Majesties and members of the royal family at the state banquet.

Get-together ceremony



Citizens and residents in Belait District greeting His Majesty and members of the royal family at the get-together ceremony.

BELAIT, July 16 - As part of the activities to celebrate the 66th royal birthday of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, a get-together ceremony was held in all four districts.

Belait District is the first district to welcome His Majesty for the get-together ceremony.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Similar ceremony will be held at the Tutong District on July 17, Temburong District on July 18 and Brunei-Muara District on 19.

His Majesty visits RTAF

BANGKOK, THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND, July 2 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited the 11th Infantry Regiment, King's Guard of the Royal Thai Armed Forces (RTAF) in Bangkok.

During the visit, His Majesty was bestowed with Honorary Wing-Counter Terrorism from Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Army, General Tanasak Patimapragnon.

While at the regiment in Don Mueng, His Majesty witnessed a static exhibition at the Aircraft Hangar, and also various military demonstration at the multipurpose compound.

Brunei Darussalam and Thailand together with other members of ASEAN countries declared to strengthen cooperation in defence among the global community in confronting new challenges agreed during the ASEAN Defence Ministerial Meeting (ADMM) at the Republic of Indonesia last year.

His Majesty was in Bangkok for an official visit.



His Majesty bestowed with Honorary Wing-Counter Terrorism from Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Army.

7th Intake Officer Cadets Sovereign's Parade Strengthen training management



His Majesty presenting the 'Sword of Honour Award' to 19831 Officer Cadet (U) Muhd. Izdihar bin Haji Imran.

SUNGAI AKAR, July 5 - Officer Cadets from the 7th Intake of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Officer Cadets School (OCS) have officially completed their training.

The 7th Sovereign Parade was held to mark their completion at RBAF OCS.

In attendance to officiate the parade was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of RBAF.

His Majesty in his *titah* (royal speech) called for OCS to continuously strengthen its training management by adding a number of methods, such as international standards, computer based training and academic recognition.

As an early step, said His Majesty, it is right, so that the proposed award of BTEC Extended Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership, subject for the OCS, to begin next year.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of 'Sword of Honour Award' to 19831 Officer Cadet (U) Muhd. Izdihar bin Haji Imran; 'Best in Academic Award' was presented to 19848 Naval Officer Cadet Muhd. Muizz bin Haji Mohd Jaini; 'Best Military Skills Award' was presented to 19830 Naval Officer Cadet Mohd. Khairul Anuar bin Abdullah; and 'Best in Physical Training Endurance Award' was presented to 19835 Officer Cadet Hafizan bin Haji Maksin.

The 7th Sovereign Parade witnessed 26 officer cadets successfully ended their 42-week training; including the two officer cadets, who were the recipients of Supreme Commander scholar and RBAF scholar respectively.

RBAF regimental dinner

BERAKAS, July 9 - Royal Brunei Armed Forces' (RBAF) regimental dinner was held in conjunction with its 51st anniversary.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of RBAF graced the dinner held at Berakas Garrison Officer's Mess.

Also attending was His Royal Highness Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and General of RBAF.



His Majesty at the RBAF's regimental dinner.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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

- His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Morsi on his appointment as the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt on July 1.
- His Excellency President Barack H. Obama, President of the United States of America as well as to the government and the people of America on the occasion of their 236th Independence Day on July 4.
- His Excellency Tsakhia Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia as well as to the government and people of the Mongolia on the occasion of Revolution Day of Mongolia on July 10.
- His Excellency Francois Hollande, President of the Republic of France as well as the government and the people of France on the occasion of their National Day on July 13.
- His Excellency Pranab Mukherjee on his appointment as the President of the Republic of India on July 25.
- His Excellency Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong as well as the government and the people of Singapore in conjunction with the republic 47th National Day on August 9.
- His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia as well as the government and the people of Indonesia in conjunction with the republic 67th National Day on August 17.
- His Majesty Al-Sultan Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia XIV and The Right Honourable Dato Laila Utama Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia and also the government and people of Malaysia in conjunction with the 55th Independence Day of Malaysia on August 31.
- His Excellency Truong Tan Sang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of Viet Nam as well as the government and the people of Viet Nam in conjunction with the republic 67th National Day on August 31.

His Majesty sends condolences to victims of helicopter crash

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, JULY 28 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send a message of condolence to the family members of the victim of the tragic accident involving a Royal Brunei Air Force Bell 212 helicopter in Ulu Belait on July 20.

In the message, His Majesty expressed great sadness upon knowing of the tragic accident, and extended his condolences to the family members of the victims involved. His Majesty hoped that they would be patient, and also prayed that the souls of the victims would be blessed and placed with the pious.

For those who were injured, His Majesty prayed for their swift recovery. With regards to those who are still missing, His Majesty commanded the RBAF and relevant agencies to carry on urgent and continuous action to find and account for the missing personnel.

In regards to the tragic incident, on July 26, His Majesty visited the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Brunei International Airport in Berakas and the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital in the capital.

At the Air Traffic Control Tower, His Majesty took a closer look at the role and function of the tower where it has a vital role in monitoring and ensuring air traffic movement.

His Majesty also visited RIPAS Hospital to view the progress and condition of the two personnel of the Royal Brunei Armed

Forces (RBAF) who survived the helicopter crash.

On July 28, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office also visited the two personnel.



His Majesty at the Air Traffic Control Tower at Brunei International Airport.



His Majesty visiting a member of RBAF who survived the helicopter crash at RIPAS Hospital.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office visiting the survivor at the RIPAS Hospital.

Four new mosques officially open

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 3 - Four new mosques were recently opened namely: Ash-Shaliheen Mosque at the Prime Minister's Office on July 13; Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit Mosque in Mukim Kilanas on July 20; Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Malik Mosque in Kampung Tungku/Katok on July 27; and Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Mateen Mosque in Kampung Mulaut on August 3.

Present to grace the official opening of these mosques was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and male members of the royal family who performed the inaugural Friday prayer.

The construction of these mosques is under the 2007-2012 National Development Plan.



His Majesty signs the plaque in commemorating the opening of Ash-Shaliheen Mosque at the Prime Minister's Office.

Royal speech in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1433H Importance of being grateful highlighted



His Majesty delivers a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1433H.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 19 - Brunei Darussalam celebrates Hari Raya Aidilfitri as a symbol of victory after undergoing the holy month of Ramadan where one is required to fast from dawn to dusk.

In conjunction with the festive occasion, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech) where His Majesty highlighted the importance of being grateful. No matter what the situation is, happiness or hardship, we are obligated to be grateful. Because happiness and hardship each has its own intention, which is determined by Allah The Almighty.

In light of the recent helicopter crash that claimed the lives of several personnel of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, the incident, His Majesty said, was indeed most saddening, more so for the family members of the victims.

"Surely we do not wish for a disaster such as this, nevertheless it happened because it had been determined by Allah The Almighty and cannot be prevented," said His Majesty.

His Majesty further said, that if we refer to Surah Al Baqarah, verse 216, "... But perhaps you hate a thing and it is good for you; and perhaps you, love a thing and it is bad for you. And Allah knows, while you know not," where we can only think of its good intention, while only Allah The Almighty knows of its other advantages. Among the intentions, if we can accept it with perseverance, then we are the ones who deserve to receive rewards from Allah The Almighty.

Royalty receives Hari Raya Aidilfitri greetings



His Majesty mingles with Brunei-based foreign dignitaries.



Her Majesty receives greeting from female citizen.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 20 - In conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri received Hari Raya Aidilfitri greetings from state dignitaries, senior government officers and Brunei-based foreign dignitaries.

The ceremony took place at the

Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; and other members of the royal family. Brunei Darussalam celebrates Hari Raya Aidilfitri on August 20 corresponding to 1st Syawal 1433.

Meanwhile starting from 2nd to 4th Syawal 1434, the palace was opened for citizens and residents to personally greet Their Majesties and members of the royal family on this joyous occasion. A total of 110,728 people were recorded to have attended the *junjung ziarah* (revered greeting) ceremony.

His Majesty performs Sunat Aidilfitri prayer

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 20 - Brunei Darussalam celebrates Hari Raya Aidilfitri with the *Sunat* Hari Raya Aidilfitri prayer at all mosques and prayer halls throughout the country.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-

Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined scores of Muslims to perform the *Sunat* Aidilfitri prayer at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown

Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Their Majesties attend Al-Qur'an Khatam ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 4 - A 66-time Al-Qur'an Khatam (completion) ceremony of *Mukim* and Village Consultative Councils throughout the country was held in conjunction with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 66th birthday.

Those who took part in this ceremony were comprised of 66 adult males, 66 adult females, 66 male youths and 66 female youths, making each of the four districts represented by 264 participants, totalling to 1056 participants.

This ceremony is a special gift in the form of sincere prayers by the citizens for the sovereign and *Ullil Amri* (leader) who is very much loved and highly respected. This ceremony is also to uphold His Majesty's vision to make Brunei Darussalam as a *Zikir* Nation and the citizens as Al-Qur'an literates.

The culmination of the ceremony was held at the Istana Nurul Iman and attended by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak

Sarah; and members of the royal family.

The mass reading of Al-Qur'an Khatam ceremony started with the recital of *Surah Adh Dhuhaa* up to *Surah An-Naas*.



Their Majesties during the 66-time Khatam Al-Qur'an ceremony by Mukim and Village Consultative Councils in conjunction with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 66th birthday.

National Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration

HM: Various schemes for memorisation Al-Qu'ran introduced

BERAKAS, August 5 - A number of monthly allowance schemes for memorising the Al-Qur'an have been introduced.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam announced in a *titah* (royal speech) at the National Nuzul Al-Qur'an celebration held at the International Convention Centre.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Majesty further announced cash prizes for *Qari* (male reader) and *Qariah* (female reader) for claiming top positions at international Al-Qur'an reading competitions. Winners who win first place at the international Al-Qur'an reading competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia will get \$2,000 a month for life. The allowance is as recognition from the government as well as appreciation towards the readers for their contribution in making the country proud. It is also hoped that the schemes and allowances would motivate more people to learn and practice teachings of the Al-Qur'an for achieving a truly Al-Qur'an generation.

In this regard, His Majesty said that

families need to give serious attention to the learning of the Al-Qur'an for their children. There should be no exception to this responsibility.

His Majesty also announced that the extension of Hari Raya Aidilfitri public holidays has been extended from two to three days beginning this year. It is hoped that with the extended holiday, it will increase opportunities for families to enable organising various activities together.

The highlight of the ceremony was the prize presentation to the winners of the memorisation and understanding of Al-Qur'anic verses competition.

Winner of Category A for 10 years and below was Awang Abdul Aziz bin Noor Nasran, aged eight years old. He received a cash prize \$1,500 with a trophy and certificate.

In the Category B, the winner was Ak. Muhammad 'Ashim 'Afif bin Pg. Haji Md.

Zin who received \$2,000 cash prize with a trophy and certificate.

While in Category C, the winner was Dayang Amal Saliha binti Haji Hussin, who received \$2,800 cash prize with a trophy and certificate.

And in Category D, the winner was Awang Mohammad Wahyuni bin Haji Mohd. Mansor, who received a cash prize \$4,500 with a trophy and certificate.



One of the winners receives his prize from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in conjunction with the National Nuzul Al-Qur'an celebration.



4th Extraordinary Session of Islamic Summit Conference HM: Brunei committed help unite *ummah* for OIC's future

MECCA AL-MUKARRAMAHS, August 15 - Brunei Darussalam supports the initiative of His Majesty the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to establish the Centre for Dialogue for Islamic Doctrines in Riyadh, and will continue to contribute in whatever ways it can assist in uniting the *ummah*. It is hoped that it will assist in restoring confidence towards a peaceful and prosper future.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a *titah* (royal speech) at the 4th Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held at Al Safa Palace on August 14.

His Majesty acknowledged that the current situation of the *ummah* presents two contrasting extremes which pose direct challenge to the unity of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Due to this situation, His Majesty highlighted that one of the extremes represents purpose, development, confidence and success, which is seen all over the world in many forms, namely commercial, political, industrial, social and cultural.

This demonstrates that people can master all aspects of the globalised world with enormous success. This also shows that ordinary families and communities are coping with these challenges with confidence. In this regard, His Majesty then noted that a number of international projects such as the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the OIC's 10-Year Programme of Action are

gradually taking effect.

His Majesty further stated that, on the other extreme, the *ummah* continue to suffer to the point of deep despair as seen in the mass media on a daily basis. His Majesty also voiced his concern over the alarming humanitarian situation, and pointed that what is more worrying is the absence of clear direction on how assistance can be given.

In this regard, His Majesty commended the timely invitation by His Majesty the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for member countries of the OIC to meet and address the situation concerning the Muslim *ummah* in this holy and blessed month of Ramadan. His Majesty added that it was time for the member countries to meet, unite and assist.

After the meeting, His Majesty consented to attend a *Sahur* (meal before dawn) hosted by His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud held at Mina Palace, Mecca Al-Mukarramah. Also attending the *Sahur* were other leaders attending the 4th Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference.

While on August 15, His Majesty attended the Second Day Session and the Closing of the 4th Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference.

During the session, OIC leaders continued their discussion on important matters including the promotion of Islamic solidarity; reform-related issues; measures and ways to counter intolerance and extremism; dialogue between religions,

PHOTOS: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR



His Majesty at 4th Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference.

cultures and civilisation; current political issues faced by the Middle East and the Southeast Asia; and efforts to strengthen cooperation in fields of economy and social.

The closing session saw leaders agreed to issue four resolutions namely Resolution on the Cause of Palestine; Resolution of the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference on the Rohingya Muslim Minority in Myanmar; Resolution of the 4th Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference on the Situation in Syria; and Resolution on Resolving the Situation in Mali and Sahel.

The conference also endorsed another important document known as Mecca Al-Mukarramah Pact on the Promotion of Islamic Solidarity.

HRH to OIC preparatory meeting

JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA, August 13 - Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held a preparatory meeting for the 4th Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in Jeddah Conference Palace which will be held on August 14 to 15 in Mecca Al-Mukarramah.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade on behalf of Brunei Darussalam attended the meeting. Also in attendance was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Mansurah Izzul Bolkiah.

The meeting was chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Abdullah

bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs of Saudi Arabia.

His Royal Highness also attended a breaking of fast for OIC foreign ministers hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz on behalf of His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Tahlil ceremony for His Majesty's late parents

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 25 - A tahlil ceremony was held for His Majesty's late parents, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the ceremony that took place at the Royal Mausoleum.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien passed away on September 7, 1986; while Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit passed away on September 13, 1979.



His Majesty pouring scented water on the royal mausoleum.

341 receive state honorary medals

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 27 - Three hundred and forty recipients were awarded with Brunei Darussalam's state decorations and honorary medals by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony was held at the Balai Singgahsana Indera Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman in conjunction with His Majesty's 66th birthday anniversary.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Majesty awarded the 'Darjah Setia Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bahagia' (SNB) Darjah Ke III or 'The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei (Third Class)' to Awang Dennis Tet Ying Wong.

His Majesty then awarded the 'Darjah Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Yang Amat Mulia' (SMB) Darjah Ke III or 'The Most Honourable of the Crown of Brunei (Third Class)' to 70 people. Twelve recipients were awarded the 'Darjah Seri Ugama Islam Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bersinar' (SUB) or 'The Most Esteemed Order of Islam Brunei (Fourth Class)'. Two hundred and forty-three people received the 'Darjah Setia Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bahagia' (PSB) or 'The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei (Fourth Class)'. And 15 people received the 'Darjah Seri Ugama Islam Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bersinar' (PUB) or 'The Most Esteemed Order of Islam Brunei (Fifth Class)'.



His Majesty consented to bestow one of the recipients.

PHOTO: AK. AMIRULIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. AU

HM: Private sector and GLC vital assist develop national economy

BERAKAS, August 28 - The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through several related agencies has provided various strategies, services and facilities in its bid to assist and develop private sector from national to regional and international level. This is important as the private sector and Government-Linked Companies (GLCs) play a vital role in assisting the progress of the national economy.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a *titah* (royal speech) at a Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration for the year 1433 Hijrah/ 2012 Masihi, organised by Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation held at International Convention Centre.

"In the 10th National Development Plan 2012-2017, wherein through the Economic Strategy, we continuously make efforts to build a competitive economy which can create quality employment opportunities for citizens and residents in public and private sectors," said His Majesty.



His Majesty mingles with students of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation School during the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration.

PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



Group photo session with heads and leaders of delegation from ASEAN countries for the 45th ASEAN Foreign Minister's Meeting (AMM).

PHOTOS: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

His Royal Highness attends ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, July 10 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the 45th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) and other related meetings held in Cambodia from July 8 to 13.

On July 9, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah attended the opening ceremony of the 45th AMM. It was officially opened by the Prime Minister of Cambodia, His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen at the Peace Palace.

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(His Royal Highness attends ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting)

At the meeting, the ministers exchanged views on regional and international issues and discussed ASEAN Community Building. Also highlighted were the implementation of the ASEAN Charter; the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC); Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC); Consideration and Adoption of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR); External Relations and preparations for the upcoming ministerial meetings.

One of the series of AMM attended by His Royal Highness is the 13th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The agenda for the meeting were the progress of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation and matters of regional and international concern.

The theme for this year's ASEAN Summit is 'ASEAN: One Community, One Destiny'.



His Royal Highness during the Working Dinner for ASEAN Foreign Ministers.



His Royal Highness during the meeting.

His Royal Highness attends 16th NAM Summit



PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, August 31 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the 16th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) that was held in the Summit International Centre in Tehran.

The summit, under the theme of 'Lasting Peace through Joint Global Governance', was officially opened on August 30 by the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency Mohamed Morsi.

His Royal Highness delivered a *sabda* (royal speech) on the second day of the 16th NAM Summit. His Royal Highness highlighted NAM is the core of globalism and it represents a lasting solution to the confrontation in the interest of all parties. NAM is striving for the quality of life in helping its people to gain opportunities in achieving their hopes and confidence to face the current modern world.

Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness added, will continuously make efforts to support the Islamic Republic of Iran for its three years chairmanship of NAM. On behalf of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and its people, His Royal Highness conveyed congratulatory messages to the government and people of the republic on taking over of the chairmanship. His Royal Highness also expressed condolence on the loss of lives due to the recent earthquake at Northwest Iran.

Before the conclusion of the 16th NAM Summit, a bilateral meeting was held between Brunei Darussalam and the Islamic Republic of Iran to discuss bilateral relationship and mutual cooperation. His Royal Highness held the meeting with the President of Iran, His Excellency Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad; Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Dr. Ali Ahbar and the Minister of Petroleum, His Excellency Rostam Ghasemi.



His Royal Highness with His Excellency President of Iran.



His Royal Highness with Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Olympic Games 2012: Historical milestone for Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 19 - Brunei Darussalam's participation in this year's Olympic Games marked a historical milestone as Brunei's contingent was represented by more than one athlete including one female athlete.



His Royal Highness handling our national flag to Brunei's chef-de-mission.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) highlighted this matter in a *sabda* (royal speech) at the presentation of Brunei's national flag to Brunei's contingent to the 30th Olympic Games in London. The presentation was held at International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Royal Highness said that this is the Olympic's spirit that the country would like to portray to the world that women in Brunei Darussalam are not neglected and can take their place in the local, regional and international sports arena in line with the Olympic Charter, specifically the Fundamental Principles of Olympism focusing on gender equality.

His Royal Highness said that the Brunei woman athlete and male swimmer are recipients of the Olympic Scholarship through the Olympic Solidarity Programme given for the first time in assisting athletes undergoing their trainings to improve their achievement. Although the participation of the national athletes to the 2012 London Olympic Games is under the Universality Place quota, His Royal Highness is confident that the athletes will enhance their efforts and aspire to compete with excellent performances in order to improve their own personal bests.

The Brunei national flag was presented by His Royal Highness to the contingent's Chef-de-Mission to the London 2012 Olympic Games XXX, Haji Muhd. Zamri bin Dato Paduka Haji Hamdani.

Also attending was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul 'Aleem.

140 metric tonnes Safawi dates distributed



One of the representatives of mukim receives dates from His Royal Highness.

TUNGKU LINK, July 3 - As personal gift of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to Muslims in this nation-state, a total of 148 metric tonnes of 'Safawi' dates supplied by Al-Madinah Dates Company, Saudi Arabia will be distributed. The amount has increased by five metric tonnes, compared to last year due to the increasing number of Muslims residing in this country. Every Muslim living in this country regardless of age or nationality will each receive 300 grams of dates.

A ceremony to officially launch the distribution of dates in conjunction with the forthcoming fasting month of Ramadan 1433 Hijrah corresponding to 2012 Masahi was held at Chancellor Hall of Universiti Brunei Darussalam. In attendance to officially launch the distribution of the dates was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik in a *sabda* (royal speech) expressed his hope that the distribution of dates shall be implemented in an orderly and proper manner. His Royal Highness urged parties concerned to give greater attention to the distribution of the dates so that they will be received by those whom the dates are intended for. Therefore, this matter should be given serious attention by the parties concerned, particularly those who are entrusted with the duty to make the distribution to the deserving recipients, so that there will be no complaints about people not receiving the dates.



PHOTOS: SAMLE HAJI JAIT

His Royal Highness at London Olympics

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, August 4 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) was in London to attend athletic events participated by Bruneian in the 30th London Olympic Sports, at the Olympic Stadium, Olympic Park.

Brunei Darussalam is represented by Awangku Hafiy Tajuddin (Men's Athletics 400 metre); Maziah Mahusin (Women's Athletics 400 metre); Anderson Lim (Men's Swimming 200 metre Freestyle).

Also present were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul 'Aleem and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Aliyah Amalul Bulqiah.

On August 1, His Royal Highness consented to attend an *iftar* (breaking of fast in the Islamic month of Ramadan) hosted by the Saudi Arabia Embassy in London in conjunction with the London Olympics. The banquet was also attended by the President of Saudi Arabia National Olympic Council and the Head of the Saudi Arabia delegation.

In a separate occasion, His Royal Highness attended a reception hosted by the Qatar National Olympic Council (QNOC) in London on July 27. His Royal Highness took a closer look on an exhibition on the development of sports in the State of Qatar. The state is bidding to host the 32nd Olympic Games in 2020.



His Royal Highness with one of the Brunei's athletes.

His Royal Highness: Nurture a culture on using Jawi spelling

JERUDONG, July 4 - There are still many rooms for improvement in order to refine and enhance the mastery of *Jawi* writing in this country. Such opportunity is still wide open with the continuous efforts and high commitment by the government as well as the society in reviving and nurturing a culture for the use of *Jawi* spelling.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik stated the matter in his *sabda* (royal speech) at the opening of the two-day National Conference on *Jawi* Spelling: Methodology and Coordination at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

His Royal Highness also expressed his hope that the conference would be able to integrate and coordinate a standard method to be used in Brunei Darussalam, whether in educational institutions and the public sector.

His Royal Highness said the use of *Jawi* spelling that has been agreed upon in the

conference will overcome any confusion in addressing the issue of the use of *Jawi* spelling.

The conference was jointly organised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, and conducted by the Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan (KUPU SB) as well as the Language and Literature Bureau in collaboration with the Department of Islamic Studies, Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Department of Schools, Ministry of Education.

The presentation of the premier paper 'Issues on the usage of *Jawi* spelling and methods of developing it' was delivered by the Syarie Chief Judge, Pehin Dato Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya. Approximately 300 local participants comprising representatives from ministries and education institutions as well as members of the public attended the conference.



His Royal Highness delivers a *sabda* (royal speech) at the opening of National Conference on *Jawi* Spelling: Methodology and Coordination.

'I Love Brunei Darussalam' instills spirit of nationalism

GADONG, July 7 - 'I Love Brunei Darussalam' competition was organised aimed to act as a platform for the public to express their feeling of love and patriotism towards His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the nation.

This competition was organised by The Brunei Times Sendirian Berhad with cooperation from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 28th Anniversary of the National Day.

The organiser received more than 670 participations in various categories.

Prizes were presented by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik at The Rizqun International Hotel.

The Graphic Design category was won by Flubert Neri. Pengiran Syahreem bin Pengiran Metassan won the Photography category.

While the drawing competition for the Open category was won by Awang Marsidi bin Omar. Meanwhile, Awang Mohammad Nadhir bin Haji Mohamed Husaini won the 13 to 18 years old category, and Yeo Yeo Chiew won the under 12 Children category.

The English Language Essay Writing

competition for the Open category was won by Earvin Charles Cbalquinto. Khong Yu Neng won the 13 to 18 years old category, while Awang Mohammad Amir Putera Razzaqzharfan Hakeemuddin bin Haji Yacob won the under 12 category.

The Malay Language Essay Writing competition for the Open category was won by Awang Haji Shahwardy bin Haji Hamdan, while Dayang Rifhan Naqiah binti Haji Erwan won the 13 to 18 years old category and Dayang Syamimi Karmila binti Mohamad Ramlan won the under 12 years old category.

50th Anniversary of ASTERAWANI Malay literacy: Call for translation to foreign languages

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 9 - A call was made for Brunei Darussalam's literary writers' society to write and translate their literary and written works in foreign languages. This will add value to the progress of national literature.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade made a *sabda* (royal speech) during the launch of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of ASTERAWANI and the 8th Brunei Bay Dialogue at International Convention Centre in Berakas.

ASTERAWANI has placed Brunei Darussalam on the map of regional Malay literature development. In this regard Brunei Darussalam has been recognised as a country that possesses its own national literary arts.

In conjunction with its golden Jubilee celebration, ASTERAWANI presented awards to recognise Brunei's writers for their contributions to the nation's literary arts.

The *Anugerah Tokoh Sasterawan* ASTERAWANI was presented to Pehin Dato Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain and Pehin Dato Ustaz Awang Haji Yahya.

Five people received the ASTERAWANI Activist Award. They were Yang Berhormat Penghulu Cikgu Haji A. Ahmad bin Husain, Awang Haji Abd. Rahman bin Yusof, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Sumadi bin Sukaimi, Professor Madya Dr. Haji Hashim bin Haji Abd. Hamid and Awang Haji Jawawi bin Haji Ahmad.

Meanwhile four other recipients received the ASTERAWANI Leader Appreciation Award. They were Awang Haji Samad bin Kahar, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Badaruddin bin Pengiran Haji Ghani, Professor Madya Ampuan Dr. Haji Ibrahim bin Ampuan Haji Tengah and Awang Haji Abdul Hakim bin Haji Mohd. Yassin.

Pusat Ehsan organises activities to raise fund



Her Royal Highness receives a mock check from one of the donors at the Pusat Ehsan Charity Bazaar 2012.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 31 - Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam is hosting a three-day Charity Bazaar with the aim to raise fund starting from August 31 to September 2.

Present to officiate the bazaar was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna at Taman Jubli Perak in Bandar Seri Begawan.

At the ceremony, Her Royal Highness received a mock check and presented certificates of appreciation to participants and donors.

From the first day of the bazaar, a sum of \$91,000 was accumulated.

Through the bazaar, Pusat Ehsan students can raise public awareness towards 'My Ability Counts' campaign which showcases the students skills and abilities in career such as administration and clerical work, housekeeping and catering.

The bazaar was participated by foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam, senior government officers, corporate bodies, restaurants, higher learning institutions and youth associations.

While on July 8, The Run 2012 was also held to raise fund for Pusat Ehsan. Over 4,800 runners took part which took place at Bandar Seri Begawan Waterfront.

Present to launch the run was the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Abu Bakar.

Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that was established in 1999 with the purpose of addressing and catering to individuals with special needs.

At present, some 136 students with special needs are registered with the centre at its Bengkurong branch, while another 27 are registered in the Kuala Belait branch.

Taman Kulimambang, a garden of butterflies

TUTONG, July 3 - Taman Kulimambang or butterfly garden is the latest place of attraction in Brunei Darussalam. Based in one of ASEAN's Heritage Park, Tasek Merimbun, this garden will be a boost in attracting tourists and the young generation especially school children.

The garden, according to the Director of Brunei Museums, Awang Bantong bin Antaran, will provide a platform for its visitors to learn the types of butterflies which exist in Brunei Darussalam especially those found around Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park.

The garden was officially opened by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair. Also present was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Omar Ali, Curator of Natural History and Manager of Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park.

The garden is a project under the management of the Department of Brunei Museums through its Natural History and Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park Section. With the opening of the garden, a children's story book entitled *Si Kelabang* was launched.



Inside view of the garden.

17th ASEAN Valuers Association Congress

GADONG, July 4 - The Land Department, Ministry of Development hosted the 17th ASEAN Valuers Association (AVA) Congress which was held from July 3 to 4 at The Rizqun International Hotel.

It was officially opened by the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi on July 3.

About 100 delegates attended the two-day congress comprised of AVA Council members from respective ASEAN countries, practicing valuers, academicians, investors, developers, estate agents, policy formulators and regulators related to real estate.

Thirty presenters from ASEAN and representatives from professional valuers bodies presented their papers which were based on their practical experiences, academic research findings and experience in formulating and regulating the values profession. Lao People's Democratic Republic and Republic of the Union of Myanmar attended the congress as observer countries.

AVA was established in 1981 comprising national organisations from ASEAN countries, namely Republic of Singapore, Malaysia, Republic of Indonesia, the Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The congress and general assembly are held biennially and are rotated amongst the member countries. A pre-congress meeting will be held between congresses in facilitating the preparation for the congress.



Minister of Development officially opened the congress.

Minister attends reception

Present on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II, Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng and spouse attended a reception to celebrate the 236th anniversary of Independence Day of the United States of America (USA).

Also present was the Ambassador of USA to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Daniel L. Shields III.

The reception was held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club on July 4.



PHOTO: DR. NUR HAFILAH PG. COSMAN

10 RBAF personnel join 8th UNIFIL mission



Group photo session of the pre-departure ceremony.

RIMBA, July 4 - Ten personnel of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) joined troops from Malaysia under the command of Malaysian Company 8 (MALCOY 8) to take part in the peacekeeping mission with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Prior to the departure, the Deputy Minister of Defence, Dato Paduka Haji Mustappa handed over the national flag

to the head of the contingent, Major Mohd. Roasri Irwan bin Haji Tasrif. Also present was the Commander of the RBAF, Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan.

On a separate occasion, as pre-departure blessing ceremony, Surah Yaa Siin recital, *Doa Selamat* and Fardu Zuhur mass prayer were held for the 10 personnel of RBAF that will participate the

peacekeeping mission. The ceremony was held on July 3 at the Bolkliah Garrison. Also present were Deputy Minister of Defence, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustappa and senior officers of RBAF.

Brunei Darussalam has participated in the UNIFIL peacekeeping mission since 2008.

11th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting

PHUKET, THAILAND, July 6 - The 11th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) discussed the development of health issues in the ASEAN region and the implementation of joint programmes and activities as underlined in the ASEAN Strategic Framework on Health Development for 2010 until 2015.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by its health's minister, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan.

The 11th AHMM was followed by the 5th ASEAN Health Minister Meeting + 3 (Peoples' Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Japan) to discuss health issues in ASEAN + 3 including in the field of traditional medication and mother's and children health care.

The minister also held a bilateral meeting with Thailand's Public Health Minister, The Honourable Wittaya Buranasiri and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the health sector.

Breastfed infants have better intelligence quotient

BERAKAS, August 4 - Studies have shown that breastfed infants have better intelligence quotient (IQ) compared to those who are on formula milk.

Breastfeeding practice can also guarantee a healthy future generation who are more active physically and mentally.

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan stated the matter at a ceremony to celebrate World Breastfeeding Week 2012 held at Orchid Garden Hotel.

The minister said that choosing to breastfeed is a vital decision for parents, as it gives either an impact or a health risk to both mother and infant. Nonetheless, giving a product as a substitute for mother's milk will not only increase the health risk for both the infant and the mother.

The World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated every first week of August. This year's theme is 'Understanding the Past - Planning for the Future'.

Brunei committed sustain its forest resources



Group photo of representatives from ASEAN member states and Republic of Korea.

SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, August 30

- Brunei Darussalam is committed to ensure that the country's forest resources are managed in a sustainable manner within the context of Sustainable Forest Management practice. The Government's National Forest Conservation policy put strong emphasis on the need to conserve and protect the country's green asset in order to ensure that the forest resources will continue to play its role in providing benefit to social, economy and the environment.

To date, Brunei Darussalam has successfully rehabilitated and re-greened about 400 hectares of degraded forest land which was damaged due to forest

fire; enriched about 11,000 hectares of logged-over production forest area; and established about 5,000 hectares of forest plantation.

Brunei Darussalam will continue to ensure that the country's forest remains intact for the benefit of current and future generation and become a safe haven for wild flora and fauna.

The matters were stated by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya at the Special ASEAN and ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Ministerial Meetings on Forestry.

The opening ceremony of the Special ASEAN and ASEAN-ROK Meeting were officially opened by His Excellency Dr.

Don Koo Lee, Minister of Korea Forest Service (KFS).

Also in the presence were His Excellency Kim Hwang-Sik, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, as guest of honour; ASEAN ministers responsible in forestry; and senior officials from ASEAN member states and ROK.

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya also had a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Dr. Don Koo Lee, the Minister of KFS to discuss current forestry issues; potential bilateral forestry collaboration; and share knowledge and experience on sustainable forestry management and conservation especially in the area of plantation forest development, forest rehabilitation and reforestation activities.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) July 2012

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 31 - The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for July 2012 increased by 0.4 per cent over June 2012 which recorded an increase of less than 0.05 per cent compared to May 2012.

The increase for July 2012 was due to the higher prices of fresh prawn, salted *pusu* and prawn, men's shoes and *umrah* package compared to June 2012.

On the other hand, a decrease was recorded in Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels due to lower costs of materials for the maintenance and repair of dwelling compared to June 2012.

CPI for July 2012 increased by 0.6 per cent compared to July 2011, largely due to the higher index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Recreation and Culture.

CPI is a measure of price changes of goods and services paid by the consumer in a specified period. The list of goods and services in the CPI is based on the average expenditure per household from the Household Expenditure Survey.

The CPI full report for July 2012 is available from JPKE's website: www.depd.gov.bn.

2012 Brunei Darussalam Traditional Boat Race

MUARA, July 8 - The National Boat Race Association organised the 2012 Brunei Darussalam Traditional Boat Race competition, in conjunction with their Silver Jubilee with support from the Youth and Sports. The competition is an annual event of Brunei National Boat Race Association.

The 2012 Brunei Darussalam Traditional Boat Race was held at the Serasa Water Sports Complex in Muara on July 8. Seven teams from neighbouring states will be participated in the invitational and open event categories. 11 events were contested for the race, including five additional categories, namely two invitational events and three events for the ministries. Local teams also took part in the competition.

The first competition between ministries was also held namely the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Development and Ministry of Home Affairs for this year competition.

The objective of the competition is to identify new and young paddlers in representing the country in the regional and international tournaments. Attending the event as the guest of honour and presented the prizes to all winners of the categories was Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.

The competition managed to attract huge crowd as most of people in Brunei Darussalam decided to spend their quality time together with families and friends to watch the Traditional Boat Race live.

Brunei won four bronzes in 15th SUKMA

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 17 - Brunei Darussalam's contingent to the 15th Malaysian Sports or SUKMA XV Games in Pahang, Malaysia 2012 won four bronze medal in bicycle and silat event.

The tournament was held on July 7 to 16, 2012.

The sport was official opened by His Majesty The Sultan of Pahang, Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al Mustain Billah at the Darul Makmur Stadium, Kuantan, Pahang on July 7.

Present to witness the opening ceremony was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hazair. This marks Brunei's 8th participation in the SUKMA events.

Brunei Darussalam was competing in 9 out of 24 events including Soccer, Golf, Karate, Bicycle Racing, Athletics, Silat, Taekwondo, Sepak Takraw and Wushu.

6th BELTA Oratory Competition 2012

MERAGANG, July 31 - The 6th Brunei English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) Oratory Competition 2012 was held at Pusat Tingkatan Enam Meragang.

The objective of the competition among other to show the public speaking's benefit in giving information, educate, entertain and convincing also in giving the secondary students chances in public speaking and appreciate the responsibilities related with presentation at a large audience.

It also help foster confidence in using English language as second language among secondary students also highlight the ability of the students through the articulation of a constructive and positive vision.

Attending the 6th BELTA Oratory Competition 2012 was Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina and presented prizes to the winner.

Emerged as the winner of the 6th BELTA Oratory Competition was Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam Secondary School, runner-up went to St. Margaret and third place won by Chung Hwa Kuala Belait School.

3rd Al-Qur'an Reading Malay World's Islamic World Competition

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 1 - Brunei Darussalam will be participating in the 3rd Al-Qur'an Reading Malay Worlds' Islamic World from August 2 until 5.

The four-day competition will be held at the Al-Azim Mosque, Malacca, Malaysia.

For this competition Brunei Darussalam will send two participants, namely Awang Haji Mohamad Fikri bin Haji Awang Metussin and Dayang Hajah Nurul Akmalina binti Haji Yahya. They will be joined by their coach, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Yussop and Dayang Hajah Jamilah binti Haji Abd. Manap.

Brunei Darussalam's participation for this competition is to encourage and expose the participants also as motivation towards achieving a more improved performance in the future. It is also hoped to create excellence and talented Al-Qur'an readers in every aspect in reading Al-Quran.

Did you know that...

- In September 2007, Ministry of Health launched the 'Integrated Health Screening and Health Promotion Programme for Civil Service'. This programme aims to raise awareness on chronic diseases and associated lifestyle risk factors which can be prevented among civil servants.
- The 'One Village One Product (OVOP)' project is a community-centred and demand-driven local economic development approach towards the development and promotion of village products in the domestic and international markets. The OVOP project supports the country's pursuit of economic diversification.
- On November 25, 2010, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Staff College was officially opened by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of RBAF.

>> 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

>> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

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