



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
Prime Minister's Office

APRIL, 2012
VOLUME 27 ISSUE 4

His Majesty attends 20th ASEAN summit



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

ASEAN leaders in a group photo.

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, April 3 - ASEAN must be committed in achieving the goal and in realising the ASEAN Community 2015, despite the preventions that still has to be confronted in various fields under the three main ASEAN pillars.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei

Darussalam said in a *titah* (royal speech) at the Plenary Session of the 20th ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.

The summit was held at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh.

His Majesty said that ASEAN needs to continue sharing their concerns through consultation, strengthening

the ASEAN Secretariat and bringing on board all of ASEAN partners in order to cooperate in achieving the targets and addressed the challenges being faced. This is important as ASEAN carry out its commitments towards the ASEAN economic community, in the light of the global economic uncertainty.

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Increase in life expectancy for men and women



Minister of Health launches the World Health Day 2012.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 7 - A study in the country demonstrated that life expectancy for men had increased from 74.0 in 2001 to 76.5 in 2010; while for women, it was from 77.1 in 2001 to 78.8 in 2010.

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan underlined the matter at a ceremony marking World Health Day 2012.

This is due to the country's socio-economic development and the facilities provided by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam that have been enjoyed by the citizens and residents of the country including the implementation of the healthcare system that is universal and comprehensive as well as accessible at all age levels.

World Health Day is celebrated annually on April 7 to commemorate the establishment of the World Health Organisation in 1948. It serves as a platform for promoting campaigns at the global level by focusing world attention to the very important and significant health issue with the hope of giving a huge impact on the communities throughout the world.

The ceremony was also highlighted with a World Health Day Forum that focused on discussions on ageing process in terms of care, health and life quality of senior citizens. The theme for this year's Health Day is 'Ageing and Health' with the slogan 'Good health adds life to years'. An exhibition on awareness towards the importance of life-long healthcare for the well-being of senior citizens was also held.

According to statistics, Brunei Darussalam has shown an increase in the group of citizens aged 60 years old and above, from 13,900 people out of the whole population in 2000, to 22,200 people in 2010.



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APRIL 2012 - VOLUME 27 ISSUE 4

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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

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His Majesty receives audiences



PHOTO: AK. AMIRULINZAM, PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

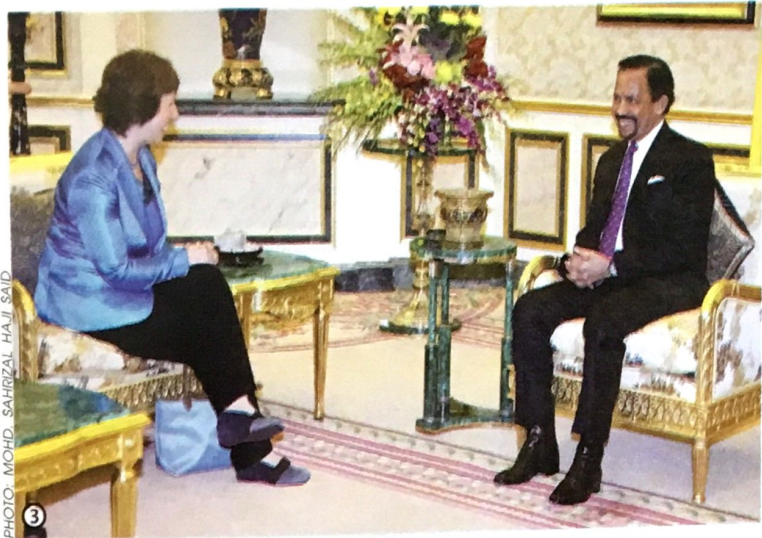


PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

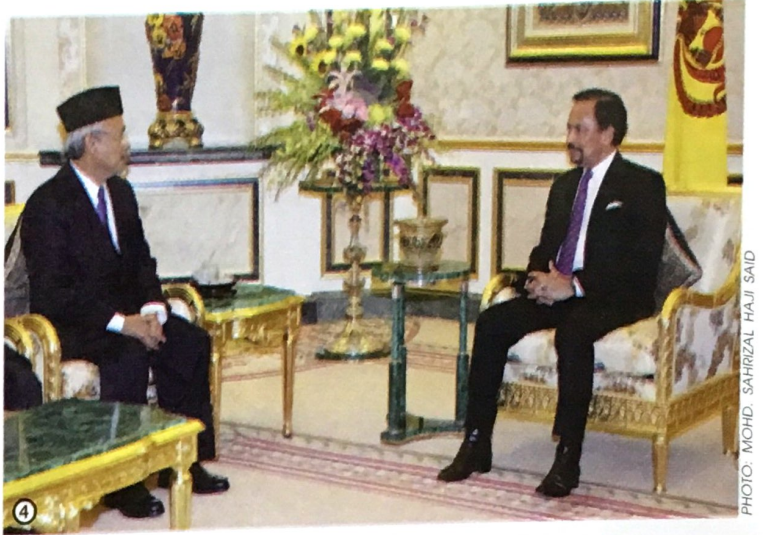


PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



PHOTO: AMPIAN HAJI MAHMUD, AMPIAN HAJI TENGAH

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 Mr. Ray Mabus, United States Secretary of the Navy on April 5.
- ② His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Minister; Coordinating Minister for National Security; and Minister for Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore on April 25.
- ③ High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, Lady Catherine Ashton on April 26.
- ④ Malaysian Minister of Finance II, Dato' Seri Haji Ahmad Husni bin Mohammad Hanadzlah on April 26.
- ⑤ Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, His Excellency Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamoud Al-Busaidi on April 28.

His Majesty receives audiences

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 26 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from Foreign Affairs Ministers and Representatives that attended the 19th ASEAN-EU Meeting in Brunei Darussalam.

The two-day 19th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting is held from April 26 until 27.

Also present, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister Office; and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

Brunei receives Chairman of CPPCC



His Majesty received in audience from His Excellency Jia Qinglin, Chairman of the 11th National Committee for the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 19 - The Chairman of the 11th National Committee for the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), His Excellency Jia Qinglin arrived in Bandar Seri Begawan for a two-day visit on April 18.

A banquet dinner was hosted in honouring His Excellency's visit to Brunei Darussalam by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Also attending the banquet was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and other royal family members.

The banquet was held at Privy Council Chamber, Istana Nurul Iman.

The Chairman of the 11th National Committee for the CPPCC, His Excellency Jia Qinglin and delegations ends the two-day visit to Brunei Darussalam on April 20.



The banquet hosted for His Excellency and entourage.



Her Majesty receives audiences

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

- ① Madam Teo-Chew Poh Yin, spouse of His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Minister; Coordinating Minister for National Security; and Minister for Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore on April 25.
- ② Yang Berbahagia Datin Seri Fauziah binti Kamaruddin, spouse of Malaysian Minister of Finance II, Dato' Seri Haji Ahmad Husni bin Mohammad Hanadzlah on April 26.

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 Majesty Al-Sultan Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku AlHaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Badlishah, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong on the occasion of His Majesty's coronation as the 14th Seri Paduka Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia on April 11.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



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PHOTO: AK. AMIRULIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI



PHOTO: AK. AMIRULIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI



PHOTO: AK. AMIRULIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

HRH 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 Sun Jiazheng, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, People's Republic of China on April 2.
- ② His Excellency Mr. Ray Mabus, United States Secretary of the Navy on April 5.
- ③ His Excellency Dr. Haji Emran bin Bahar, Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic on April 9.
- ④ His Excellency Awang Haji Nordin bin Haji Ahmad, Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador to the State of Qatar on April 9.
- ⑤ His Excellency Engineer Khandker Mosharruf Hossain, Minister of Labour and Employment and Minister of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on April 9.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

Their Royal Highnesses receive audience

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 received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezaan from His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Minister; Coordinating Minister for National Security; and Minister for Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madam Teo-Chew Poh Yin on April 25.

His Majesty on state visit to Turkey



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

His Majesty is greeted by His Excellency Abdullah Gul, President of Turkey.

ISTANBUL, TURKEY, April 11 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was on a state visit to the Republic of Turkey from April 7 to 11, on the invitation of His Excellency Abdullah Gül, President of Turkey.

During the five-day state visit, His Majesty met the Prime Minister of Turkey, His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a one-to-one meeting at the Dolmabache Office in Istanbul where both leaders discussed bilateral issues as well as regional and international matters of mutual concern.

His Majesty also visited several historic places in the Historic Peninsula namely the Sultanahmet Mosque, Hagia Sophia Museum, and Basilica Cistern. Also in His Majesty's itinerary were visits to the Istanbul Museum of The History of Science and Technology in Islam, Istanbul Military Museum, and the Chambers of the Sacred Relics and the Imperial Treasury section of the Topkapi Palace.

On the third day of the state visit, the Turkish President hosted a luncheon for His Majesty at the Adile Sultan Palace. His Majesty was accompanied by His Excellency the Turkish President from the Saraybunu Pier to board a Coast Guard vessel towards the Anadolu Hisari Pier to the dining venue. The stay in Istanbul ended with a dinner reception hosted by the Governor of Istanbul, His Excellency Husseyin Avni Mutlu.

His Majesty proceeded to Ankara, the Turkish capital city where His Majesty received an official welcoming ceremony by His Excellency the Turkish President. His Majesty had a bilateral meeting and witnessed the signing of agreements.

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PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

On arrival at Dolmabahce Office, His Majesty is welcomed by Prime Minister of Turkey, His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan.



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

The state visit includes a visit to the Istanbul Military Museum.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

His Majesty receives *pesambah* (token of appreciation) presented by the Mufti of Istanbul during the visit to Historical Peninsular.



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

His Majesty takes a closer look at Basilica Cistern, one of the most magnificent Byzantine structures in Istanbul.

* From page 6
(His Majesty on state visit to Turkey)

While in Ankara, His Majesty toured the Kemal Atatürk Monument for Flower Garland Ceremony at the Anıtkabir Compound, and the Atatürk and The War of Independence Museum.

The state visit was concluded with a banquet dinner hosted by the Turkish President in honouring His Majesty's official visit at the President Palace. His Majesty said in a *titah* (royal speech) that the visit has strengthened the cooperation between both countries through the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

His Majesty appreciated the Turkish contributions in international researches, courses and human development through academic institutions, science and culture in Turkey. In common with Turkey, Brunei participates in international organisations such as the United Nations (UN) and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in fulfilling aspiration towards developing one harmonious and prosperous world.

Brunei Darussalam and Turkey established diplomatic relations since June 1984 and have worked together in a number of areas of cooperation including economy, culture and defence.



His Majesty delivers a *titah* (royal speech) during a banquet hosted by the President of Turkey.

Brunei-Turkey discuss bilateral relationship

ANKARA, TURKEY, April 10 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the President Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Abdullah Gul held a bilateral meeting where both leaders discussed bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interests.

The meeting was held at the Bilateral Room, President Palace.

Prior to, His Majesty and His Excellency held a one-to-one meeting held at the President Office, President Palace.

Soon after the meeting, His Majesty and His Excellency witnessed an agreement signed between both countries. The agreement was for Cooperation in Economy, Trade and Technical and Mutual Abolition of Visa.

Signing on behalf of Brunei Darussalam on the Agreement on Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation was Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Awang Haji Mohd. Roselan, whilst for Turkey was Mr. Ahmet, Undersecretary of Ministry of Economy.

Meanwhile, signing of the Agreement of the Mutual Abolition of Visa on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman, and for Turkey was His Excellency Egemen Bagis, Minister for European Union Affairs.



Both leaders witness the signing of Memorandum of Understandings (above and below).



Brunei-Turkey agree to establish embassy

ANKARA, TURKEY, April 10 - Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Turkey agreed on the importance of setting up diplomatic missions in both capitals in order to facilitate the expansion of bilateral cooperation.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a

titah (royal speech) during the joint press conference soon after the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) held at the President Palace.

His Majesty also expressed his delight and honour to be in Ankara as a guest of the President of Turkey, His Excellency Abdullah Gul, as well as the opportunity to

meet the president and discuss ways to strengthen the long standing relationship and goodwill.

His Majesty was pleased with the results of the discussion with the president as well as the prime minister, especially on the prospects of cooperation in trade, investment, education and defence.

* From frontpage
(His Majesty attends 20th ASEAN Summit)

For a similar reason, His Majesty felt that ASEAN should move forward with the ASEAN connectivity agenda and encouraged active participation from the private sector as well as other regional and international stakeholders. His Majesty believed that this would help enhance the ASEAN's integration efforts and make ASEAN more competitive and able to shape wider regional economic cooperation.

His Majesty said that the efforts to integrate youths through exchanges can improve the cooperation and understanding. Stressing the important of youths' role for the future and in this matter it was important to continuously prepare

the basic to develop and encourage them to play an important role in ASEAN community development efforts.

At the session, His Majesty together with the other ASEAN heads of state and government, among other things discussed the draft of Phnom Penh Declaration 'ASEAN: One Community, One Destiny' and the progress of the Implementation of the ASEAN Charter and Roadmap for ASEAN Community. The leaders also deliberated on the progress of the Implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, Realising Drug-Free ASEAN 2015, and the Global Movement of Moderates.

This year's summit coincided with ASEAN's 45th Anniversary celebrations. Since its establishment four decades ago, ASEAN has rapidly developed. It

has now become an economic entity, strong integration and a well-influenced association in Asia, besides a strategic partner to major organisations and nations in the world.

His Majesty attended the officiating ceremony for the 20th ASEAN Summit; the ASEAN 45th Anniversary Celebration; and plenary session.

The 20th ASEAN Summit and the ASEAN 45th Anniversary Celebration ceremonies were held at the Nuon Srey Hall in the Peace Palace and officiated by His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, President of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Later, His Majesty with other member of ASEAN countries attended the luncheon hosted by the President of Cambodia.

BIMP-EAGA Summit

Positive developments achieved in BIMP-EAGA four strategic pillars

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, April 4 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed his pleasure in noting the positive developments achieved in Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area's (BIMP-EAGA) four strategic pillars namely connectivity, food basket, tourism and environment.

His Majesty said in a *titah* (royal speech) while chairing the 8th BIMP-EAGA Summit in Peace Palace, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.

His Majesty also noted that BIMP-EAGA has continued to see greater enhancement of connectivity in the region both through air and land linkages. His Majesty was also pleased that the 'environment' has been designated as the fourth pillar and hoped this is where efforts to conserve and sustain biodiversity in the Heart of Borneo and the coral reefs can be pushed.

With regards to the Implementation Blueprint 2012-2016, His Majesty stated that the blueprint would be a guide to a more disciplined process of project planning, implementation and monitoring. On the engagement with external partners, His Majesty continued to urge BIMP-EAGA's partners such as the Asian Development Bank and the ASEAN Secretariat to enhance the visibility of the sub-regional initiatives to the other external partners for their support.

His Majesty also emphasised on the need to see greater collaboration with development partners such as People's Republic of China and Japan, with greater support from the ASEAN Secretariat, through the ASEAN Connectivity initiative. In concluding the meeting, His Majesty thanked the leaders for their valuable contributions and the good discussion held. At the end of the 8th BIMP-EAGA Summit, a Joint Statement was issued.



His Majesty with the Prime Minister of Cambodia and spouse.

20th ASEAN Summit achieves declaration

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, April 4 - The ASEAN leaders of the 20th ASEAN Summit adopted 'The Phnom Penh Declaration on ASEAN: One Community, One Destiny,' The Phnom Penh Agenda for ASEAN Community Building' and the 'ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Drug Free ASEAN 2015'.

The 'Chairman's Statement on the 45th Anniversary of ASEAN: the Way Forward' and the 'Chairman's Statement of the 20th ASEAN Summit' were also issued.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Retreat Session and Concluding Session of the 20th ASEAN Summit.

The Retreat Session took place at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh.

During the session, ASEAN leaders exchanged views on regional and International Issues. The leaders also deliberated on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea as well as the ASEAN Global Dialogue.



His Majesty at one of the sessions of the 20th ASEAN Summit.

State Decorations and Honorary Medals for HBT national team and officials



Brunei Darussalam HBT Team Manager receives his state decoration from His Majesty.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 5 - The success of the Brunei Darussalam Under-21 National Team will become a stimulus and at the same time inject the spirit towards sporting excellence in Brunei Darussalam especially to make the Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy (HBT) as a platform to develop football excellence in the South-East Asian Region.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a *titah* (royal speech) at the State Decorations and Honorary Medals Bestowment Ceremony to the national team management and the under-21 players of HBT for ASEAN Youth Football Tournament 2012.

The ceremony took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Firstly, His Majesty bestowed state decoration, The Most Order of Setia Negara Brunei - 4th Class (Darjah Setia Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bahagia Darjah Keempat - P.S.B.) to five management officers.

Meanwhile, 24 people comprising of the management officers and players received the honorary medal, Meritorious Service Medal (Pingat Jasa Kebaktian - P.J.K.).

Present at the ceremony were 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 Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) and Honorary President of the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD).

Brunei Darussalam Under-21 Youth Football Team became the champion at the final game that was held on March 9 for the first time since the HBT for ASEAN Youth was first held in 2002.

Their Majesties on state visit to Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, April 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 were on State Visit to Malaysia beginning April 14.

Accompanying Their Majesties were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; and other members of the royal family.

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Their Majesties, His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong and The Right Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia and spouse prior to the dinner reception.



Their Majesties and His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong at a high tea reception held at the Istana Negara.

* From page 9
(Their Majesties on state visit to Malaysia)

Their Majesties' itinerary began with attending a banquet hosted by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak and spouse, Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor. Also present were Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku AlHaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah and Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah.

The dinner reception was held at Seri

Perdana, Putrajaya, the official residence of the Prime Minister on April 14.

Accompanying Their Majesties were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

Meanwhile, on April 15, Their Majesties attended a high tea reception with Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku AlHaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah and Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah at the

Istana Negara.

Prior to the reception, Their Majesties made a courtesy call to the Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong.

Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku AlHaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah was crowned as the 14th Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia on April 11.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

His Majesty visits 13th Defence Services Asia Exhibition



His Majesty is briefed on one of the military equipment exhibits.

KUALA LUMPUR, April 16 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik visited the 13th Defence Services Asia Exhibition held at the Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur.

During the visit to the exhibition, His Majesty toured the Army Dynamic Display, where a hostage rescue demonstration was performed by the Counter Terrorist Unit of the Special Forces Group of the Malaysian Army.

The Defence Services Asia Exhibition is aimed to develop the defence and security industries. It has attracted exhibitors worldwide including manufacturers and distributors of defence technology equipment and weapons, missiles, tanks, fire control systems and other related technologies.

The exhibition is open to the public until the 19th of April 2012. More than 800 companies from 45 countries are participating.

A total of 25,000 visitors from 58 countries are expected to make business visits to this exhibition.

Public sectors receive royal visit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 25 - The Public Service Department and the Public Service Commission today received a royal visit from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. His Majesty took a closer look at both public sectors' management and organisation structure.

The Public Service Department (JPA) was first known as the Establishment Office and established on July 1, 1971. His Majesty talked with officers and staffs of JPA and visited various sections under JPA, namely Personnel Services Section, Government Employee Management System (GEMS) and other. His Majesty also observed the Public Service Commission (SPA).

His Majesty's visit showed his concerns towards the management of the departments and gave moral support to the public services officers and staffs.

Their Royal Highnesses with His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong.



PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN

Their Royal Highnesses attend 14th coronation of Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, April 11 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and 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 attended the coronation ceremony of Duli Yang Maha Mulia Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku AlHaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Badlishah as the 14th Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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* From page 10
(Their Royal Highnesses attend 14th Coronation of Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia)

The coronation ceremony was held at the Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Accompanying Their Royal Highnesses was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda

'Abdul Qawi.

The ceremony were attended by Duli Yang Maha Mulia Malay Rulers and Raja Permaisuri, Duli Yang Maha Mulia Acting Rulers; members of royal family; Their Excellencies Yang Di-Pertua Negeri and wives; the Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister; Cabinet Ministers; representatives of foreign nations as well

as local and foreign dignitaries.

In the evening, Their Royal Highnesses attended a royal banquet in conjunction with the Coronation Ceremony of the 14th Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia.

The royal banquet was held at the Dewan Seri Maharaja.



Their Royal Highnesses in group photo with His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong's royal guests.

Appreciation dinner for HBT team and officials

JERUDONG, April 7 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Deputy Sultan attended an appreciation dinner for Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy (HBT) Youths Football team 2012 that was held at one of the hotels in Jerudong.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, Honorary President of the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (NFABD); and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness presented a reward to the national team under-21 and officials for winning the HBT after defeating the Republic of Indonesia in the final match on March 9, 2012.



Brunei Darussalam's Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy National Team in group photo with Their Royal Highnesses.

\$6.5 billion allocated for 10th NDP

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 14 - A total of \$6.5 billion has been allocated for the 10th National Development Plan (10th NDP). The budget is a further 25 per cent increase or \$1.3 billion more from that of the 2007-2012 budget.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's

Office said in a *sabda* (royal speech) at the launching of the 10th NDP held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Royal Highness said that the 10th NDP is the second in the Long Term NDP of 30 years. Hence, the 10th NDP will emphasise and prioritise efforts to accelerate economic growth at a rate of 6 per cent per annum which is at par with regional economic growth.

The government said His Royal Highness will continue to focus efforts on improving quality of education, skill and workforce capability in all public also private sectors through the provisions of a Human Resources Fund and development of the education infrastructure. This move will hopefully produce educated, highly skilled citizens to make the

nation more dynamic and progressive.

Through 10th NDP, Research and Development Fund will also be provided to encourage more research and development activities especially the research that can yield products or services which can be commercialised and exported to other countries.

Like all other NDP's before this, the 10th NDP is allocated to several main sectors based on the planning of each ministry. Social Sector will cover housing, education and health, while the Transport and Communications Sectors will deal with industry and trade, public utilities, buildings, technology and information communications, security, science and technology.

The development of Small-Medium Enterprise (SME) is also one of an important sector that is given special attention. His Royal Highness hoped the responsible agencies could make appropriate initiatives in empowering local SME to thrive the local and international market.



His Royal Highness is briefed on one of the projects under the 10th National Development Plan.

State Honorary Medals awarded

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 28 - More than 2600 people received state honorary medals conferred by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in conjunction with His Majesty's 65th birthday anniversary.

Six hundred and thirty-five people received their honorary medals on April 28 while 647 received on April 23. Meanwhile, 668 and 688 people received their medals on April 21 and 19 consecutively.

The honorary medals were presented by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office on behalf of His Majesty held at Balai Singgahsana Indera Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The state honorary medals presented were the Meritorious Service Medal (Pingat Jasa Kebaktian - P.J.K.), Pingat Indah Kerja Baik (P.I.K.B.) and Long Service Medal (Pingat Kerja Lama - P.K.L.).



One of the recipients receives the honorary medal from His Royal Highness.



Thier Royal Highnesses with one of the participating teams.

b.mobile EPL Masters Football Brunei Cup 2012

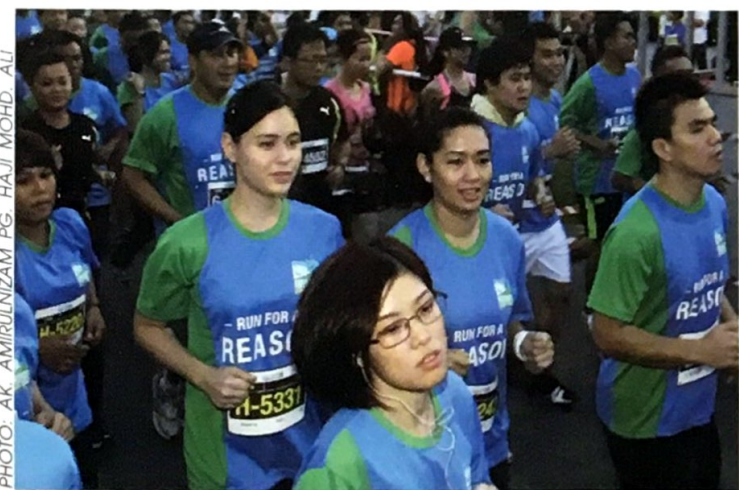
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 21 - b.mobile EPL Masters Football Brunei Cup 2012 was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

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 attended the b.mobile English Premier League (EPL) Masters Football Brunei Cup 2012.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince was introduced to the players of Manchester United Masters, Liverpool Masters, EPL All Stars Masters and Duli Pengiran Muda Mahkota (DPMM) Masters.

Accompanying Their Royal Highnesses were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Muntaqim; and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul 'Aleem.

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



The SCB Half Marathon attracts more than 4000 participants including Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah.

Charity Marathon

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 8 - More than 4,000 people participated in the Standard Chartered Brunei Half Marathon 2012 organised by Standard Chartered Bank (SCB).

The event which started and ended at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium was launched by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hazair.

The marathon were participated by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzillah Lubabul Bolkiah.

Four categories were competed namely 21km, 10km, 5km and 2.5km. The marathon aimed to collect donations for Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans and SCB Programme 'Seeing is Believing'.

Charity Golf Tournament prize presentation

JERUDONG, April 15 - Brunei Ladies Golf Association (BLGA) held a two-in-one event, namely a birthday celebration for Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and prizes presentation for the Charity Golf Tournament winners.

The event took place at the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club in Jerudong.

Her Royal Highness attended the event and presented a mock cheque of \$11,800.00 to Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Association and prize presentation to the winners of the Charity Golf Tournament.

The tournament was participated by more than 200 golf enthusiasts.

Early childhood care crucial investment for nation's future

JERUDONG, April 16 - Brunei Darussalam must expand and improve the country's education services that provide care and education for children below five years of age. This is a crucial investment for the nation's future. This form of investment requires a dynamic development process that encourages reform and innovation.

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah made the *sabda* (royal



Her Royal Highness presents a mock cheque from Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam Berhad (BIBD) to the representative of Ministry of Education, Datin Hajah Asmah, Head of Children Early Education and Care Unit.

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* From page 12
(Early childhood care crucial investment for nation's future)

speech) at the opening Ceremony of the Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education and Regional Forum on SEAMEO Project Five: - Preschool Programmes for All.

The ceremony was held at the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club, Jerudong Polo Club.

Her Royal Highness in her *sabda* said for Brunei Darussalam, the provisions for a national quality assurance framework in early childhood care and education for children from birth to the age of five should be developed.

Her Royal Highness said it would

be appropriate to provide support to parents by establishing parenting skills development programmes. Her Royal Highness also said that the role of the private sector in supporting initiatives for early childhood care and education is also an integral part of the overall solution in ensuring that children from poor or underprivileged families have the same opportunities as their more fortunate peers.

The Ministry of Education is hosting the four-day conference and regional forum, which serves a dual purpose namely to enhance the capacity of both local preschool teachers and stakeholders from various ministries in Brunei Darussalam as well as to benefit SEAMEO

Project Five participants from the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Kingdom of Thailand.

Her Royal Highness later presented to the Ministry of Education a mock cheque for \$20,000 and 10 computers from Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam Berhad (BIBD). The donations are to enhance quality learning in early childhood care and education in Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony was highlighted with a conference keynote address entitled, Achieving Early Childhood Development with Equity by The Regional Education Advisor of UNICEF, East Asia Pacific Regional Office, Thailand, Dr. Clifford Meyers.



His Royal Highness discusses ASEAN-EU preparation and related issues



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Her Excellency Lady Catherine Ashton and heads of delegation attending the 19th ASEAN-European Union (EU) Meeting.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 26 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade held a coordinating meeting with Her Excellency Lady Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission.

His Royal Highness and Her Excellency discussed about the preparation of the 19th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting. The meeting was held at Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah also discussed bilateral issues and exchanged views about regional and

international affairs with His Excellency Janos Martonyi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary; His Excellency Carl Bildt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden and His Excellency Nickolay Etimov Mladenov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Bulgaria.

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His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade held a coordinating meeting with Her Excellency Lady Catherine Ashton.



Dinner hosted for heads of delegation and delegates attending the 19th ASEAN-european (EU) Ministerial Meeting.



His Royal Highness meets with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, His Excellency Janos Martonyi; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kingdom of Sweden, His Excellency Carl Bildt; Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, His Excellency Nickolay Etimov Mladenov.

* From page 13 (His Royal Highness discusses ASEAN-EU preparation and related issues)

HRH co-chairs 19th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 27 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade co-chaired the 19th ASEAN-European Union (EU) Ministerial Meeting with Her Excellency Lady Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

During the meeting, the ministers reviewed current status of ASEAN-EU cooperation and exchanged views on regional and international affairs.

The meeting adopted the Co-Chairs Statement of the 19th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting; The Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership (2013-2017); and issued a Joint Press Release on ASEAN-EU 35 Years of Friendship and Cooperation.

Following the meeting was a joint press conference by His Royal Highness, Her Excellency Lady Catherine Ashton and His Excellency Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

At the press conference, His Royal Highness expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the biennial dialogue and the current status of the ASEAN-EU partnership.

His Royal Highness stated that the meeting had adopted the new Plan of Action which included a proposal for strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat.

The ministers, added His Royal Highness, had an exchange of views on regional and international affairs including the situation in the Middle East, financial and economic developments in Europe and other security concerns.

His Royal Highness also held bilateral meetings with His Excellency The Right Honourable William Hague, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; His Excellency Guido Westerwelle, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany; His Excellency Jean Asselborn, Deputy Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

His Royal Highness meets Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, His Excellency The Right Honourable William Hague (top right); Minister for Foreign Affairs Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Guido Westerwelle (middle right); Deputy Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of Luxembourg, His Excellency Jean Asselborn (right bottom).



PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

His Royal Highness attends 2nd World Olympic Sports Convention

MOSCOW, RUSSIA, April 19 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's National Olympic President attended the 2nd World Olympic Sports Convention on April 16 -17.

It was held at the World Trade Centre, Moscow, Russia.

The convention touched on current global sport development issues namely: development of public policy issues that connect the benefits of sports in education and health; how to develop sports in context of the current world economy and cooperation issue between government and National Olympic Council in developing high quality of sports; and how to preserve and improve sports value from unauthorised medication and gambling.

It also discussed on how to promote sports among the youngsters; and the development of Olympic movements including attracting the interest and maximising sports advocacy as ways to develop.

Also highlighted was the preview of LONDON 2012, presented by Sir Hugh Robertson, Minister of Sports and British Olympic, and SOCHI 2014 presented by Sir Alexander Zhukov, President of Russia National Olympic Council.

Prior to, His Royal Highness attended the XVII Association of National Olympic Committee (18th ANOC) General Assembly.

Tulong Mindanao Charity Auction and Bazaar

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 8 - The Tulong Mindanao Charity Auction and Bazaar had gathered some 60 booths to participate in the charity raising fund.

Proceeds raised from the event would be donated

to the Humanitarian Fund for Philippines Storm Victims established by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim graced the opening of the Tulong Mindanao Charity Auction and Bazaar that was held at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

The tropical storm claimed the lives of 1,249 people in December 2011 and displaced a further 600,000 in the Mindanao region.

The event was an initiative of The Brunei Times (BT) through BT Aid with the collaboration of Prismworks Event Management and fully supported by Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.



His Royal Highness graces the Tulong Mindanao Charity Auction.

PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

Youth Dialogue on Family Day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 18 - Brunei Darussalam will celebrate its first National Family Day on May 6, 2012.

The matter was revealed in a Youth Dialogue organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports held at Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. The dialogue

among others aimed to discuss the role of youths in disseminating the National Family Day celebration.

Acting Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Hajah Adina in the session said that the Family Day is one of the Special Committee Action Plan on

handling family institutions and it is aimed to be held annually.

"We want to stress on the importance of family institution and we want Brunei Darussalam to be known as a nation that practise strong family institution," she added.

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* From page 14 (Youth Dialogue on Family Day)

Present at the dialogue was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

The dialogue was hoped to enhance youth's awareness on the role of family institution in building harmony community through children education; and to identify youth expectation in overcoming parents-children problem and bridging the gap between both parties.

Among the matters discussed in the dialogue session were the activities to be held during the day in increasing the closeness relation between parents and children towards creating a prosperity and harmony community unity.

More than 200 youths aged 15-30 years old from various government and private agencies, youths and sports associations, parents associations, primary, secondary, college, pre-university and university students, National Service Programme trainees and special needs peoples attended the dialogue session.

International Conference on Muslim Women Rights in the Modern World

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 2 - Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) through the Faculty of Syarie and Laws will be hosting the International Conference on Muslim Women Rights in the Modern World on April 11 and 12.

Twenty-two working papers will be presented by the speakers from UNISSA; local presentators, Malaysia, Republic of Indonesia and the State of Qatar.

Four social rights scope related to marriage, divorce and gender equality; economic rights in inheritance, business and career; politic rights in voice freedom; voice and participation and education rights in using English, Malay and Arabic languages will be discussed.

The objective of the conference is to create a platform for dialogue about issues on Muslim women rights in the current social system and as an academic recommendations to the professionals, graduates, scholars and those who were interested in exchanging minds or thoughts and their research outcomes relating to women rights.

The conference aims to know the challenges and obstacles that confronted by Muslim women and the appropriate measures that should be taken to overcome the related obstacles.

It also aims in creating an academic cooperation relation between UNISSA with the international higher education institutions and in giving the opportunities to the local academic members, regional and international in discussing scientifically about the current topics and researches that related to the Muslim women rights.

HRH presents cards and badges

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 22 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, President of Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam (PPNBD) consented to present the association's Warrant/ Pre-warrant Cards and Tenderfoot Badges 2012.

Two hundred and ninety new members, 13 adult leaders and 21 members of PPNBD received their Tenderfoot Badges, Warrant also Pre-warrant Cards at the ceremony.

The ceremony was held at Sekolah Tinggi Perempuan Raja Isteri (STPRI).

Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Vice-President of the PPNBD.



Her Royal Highness with the winners of 14th Princess Rashidah Young Nature Scientist Award (PRYNOSA 14).

Seri Mulia Sarjana School wins PRYNOSA 14

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 26 - Seri Mulia Sarjana School brought home \$3000 cash prize and trophy as the winner of the 14th Princess Rashidah Young Nature Scientist Award (PRYNOSA 14) with their project 'Investigation into the Species-Area Relationship and Potential Role of Mudskippers as Baseline for Biomonitoring the Mangrove Ecosystems of Brunei Darussalam'.

PRYNOSA 14 prize presentation ceremony was held at The Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah as PRYNOSA Royal Patron attended the ceremony. Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah.

While the 'Forest Fragmentation and its Effects on Anthropods Population in Large vs Small Forests at Badas Forest Reserve', the project title by Rimba Secondary School emerged as runner-up bringing home \$2000 cash prize, while 'Biodiversity and Forest Structure of a Peatswamp Secondary Forest' the project title by Sayyidina Umar Al-Khattab Secondary School won the third place and brought with them \$1000 cash prize in PRYNOSA 14.

Consolation prizes of \$500 cash was given to Sultan Hasan Bangar Temburong Secondary School and Sayyidina Hussain Secondary School.

World Intellectual Property Day



Her Royal Highness at one of the exhibition booths.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 26 - The World Intellectual Property (IP) Day is celebrated annually by the members of World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) on April 26. The event was established to raise the public awareness on the importance of intellectual property in daily life, as well as to appreciate the innovation in the development of societies internationally.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah consented to attend the World IP Day Celebration in Brunei Darussalam at the Law and Courts Building. The celebration was organised by the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) in collaboration with Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB).

At the celebration, Her Royal Highness was briefed by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of BEDB, Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf on 'Innovation-BEDB's Perspective' and 'WIPO Study on the Contribution of Copyright-Based Industries to the National Economy of Brunei Darussalam' by Deputy Senior Law Advisor, Dayang Nur Al-Ain.

Her Royal Highness then toured the IP Exhibition. Aside from the exhibition, a clinic on IP was set up to increase the public's knowledge on Intellectual Property Rights. The three-day exhibition is held from April 26 until 28.

Brunei Darussalam is a member of WIPO since 1995.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 2 - The National Service Programme (NSP) or *Program Khidmat Bakti Negara* (PKBN) focuses on character building towards mental, physical and spiritual endurance and strength according to cultural values, nationhood and religion.

The Acting Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Datin Hajah Adina as the guest of honour stated the matter at the launching of the 2nd phase of the NSP held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex in Berakas.

Datin Hajah Adina said that the NSP is hoped to be able to fulfill the Government of His Majesty's desire to produce youths who can bring about dynamic and progressive changes to Brunei Darussalam that will always defend the sovereignty, race, nation and religion without prejudice or damage the purity of customs, culture and ethnics of the people of Brunei.

A total of 89 youths are selected to undergo the 2nd pioneer project that will end on June 23. The training module includes a number of new characteristics such as basic shooting under supervision of Royal Brunei Armed Forces and basic knowledge on Humanitarian Laws which will be conducted by the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC).

Meanwhile, an additional components, namely religious component, entrepreneurship and community service is enhanced in terms of its diversity toward realising the vision Brunei Youth Excellent that based on Malay Muslim Monarchy.

89 youths participate 2nd part of the National Service Programme



Acting Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports launches the 2nd part of the Program Khidmat Bakti Negara (PKBN).

25th MABBIM Language Committee Professional Conference



Delegates attending the conference.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 2 - Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia Language Committee (MABBIM) had created thousands of terminologies, through coaching and development of modern term, which are conducive to Malay language development.

The 25th MABBIM Professional Conference Professional Conference in conjunction with MABBIM's 40 years anniversary was officiated by the Acting Director of Language and Literature Bureau (DBP), Dayang Hajah Aminah binti Haji Momin at The Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

According to the Key Performance Indicator (KPI), MABBIM through its 40

years of age has contributed largely in the development of Malay/Indonesia language.

"From language that only empower the affairs related to the socio-economic catchment, worldview and nationality look of Malays/Indonesians, our languages have taken steps in line with other foreign language that have grown rapidly in line with the progress of science and technology," said the Acting Director of DBP.

The long term and resilient initiatives should be continued with strong determination and commitment to modernise and the intellectualisation of Malay/Indonesia language.

Dayang Hajah Aminah suggested that Malay grammar should be revised for coordination and controlling the consistency between the linguists and language users. She hoped that MABBIM will move better forward in driving the future generations continuously using the correct and unanimous Malay language.

The professional conference comprised of four committees/commissions namely: the Committee/Commission of Terminology; the Committee/Commission of Research; the committee of Nurturing/the Commission of Development; and the Committee/Commission of Publication.

Improving Decision Making through Mixed-Research Designs

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 2 - The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (SEAMEO VOTEC) held the Improving Decision Making through Mixed-Research Designs Courses Programme.

Twenty participants from the Administration Officers, Teachers and Lecturers of ten SEAMEO member countries: namely Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Republic of the Philippines,

Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam participate in the course.

The courses aimed in giving knowledge and experiences about design teachings approach and technology in combining the relevant teaching method to be used or practiced in their teaching and learning.

Brunei-Korea: Closer cooperation in education

RIMBA, April 2 - Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and Chonnam National University (CNU), Republic of South Korea agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of research, education and capacity building with the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on March 30.

The MoU was signed by the Vice Chancellor of UBD, Dato Dr. Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi and the President of CNU, Professor Kim Yoon-Soo in Gwangju.

Under the MoU, both universities will conduct the exchange of students and academic, research projects and publication as well as exchange of publication, materials and information.

Minister attends reception

On behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya attended a reception to celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the Independence and National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Also present was the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency M. Shameem Ahsan.

The reception was held on April 5 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

New management and administration for the Registrar of Companies and Business Names

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 3 -

The Ministry of Finance stated that with the consent of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Registrar of Companies and the Registrar of Business Names' are transferred to the Ministry of Finance

commencing from April 1, 2012.

It is aimed to coordinate the working process related with the establishment of the company and business in the country in aligning with His Majesty's Government's objective that is to help facilitate business registration in the country towards creating a conducive business environment

in attracting investment and business activities in the country.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance is appointed as the Registrar of Companies and the Registrar of Business Names. It will be known as the Registrar of Companies and the Registrar of Business Names Division.

Education Minister attends Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship Programme

SINGAPORE, April 9 - Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar visited the Republic of Singapore from April 1-9 as one of the 33rd Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship (LKYEF) Programme. Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar is the third LKYEF from Brunei.

During the visit, the Minister of Education made a courtesy call to Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong and met with Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law, His Excellency K Shanmugam.

The minister attended a dinner hosted by Minister for Education, His Excellency Heng Swee Keat; luncheon by Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts and Minister for Muslim Affairs,

His Excellency Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim and welcoming dinner hosted by the Chairman of the LKYEF, His Excellency Eddie Teo and received Honourable Medal on April 2.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar also visited wide range of Singapore's educational institutions including Institute of Technical Education (ITE), School of the Arts (SOTA), NUS High School of Mathematics and Science, NUS University Town, Northlight School, National Institute of Education (NIE), Government of Singapore Investment Cooperation, DigiPen Institute of Technology, Temasek Holdings, the National Art Gallery, Republic Polytechnic, the Singapore Art Museum, Singapore Polytechnic, and

Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School.

The visit underscored the excellent state of Singapore-Brunei relations and reaffirms the warm and long-standing ties between both nations. Singapore-Brunei has regular exchanges of high-level visits, and work closely bilaterally and in regional and international.

Established in 1991, the LKYEF programmes invite outstanding individuals for high-level exchange visits to Singapore. The fellows are chosen on the basis of their proven track records or extraordinary potential to contribute to the development of their nations, as well as to promote international understanding and goodwill.

Brunei Darussalam signs MoU with Oman

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 10 - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman in the field of cultural cooperation.

Present as signatories to the MoU was Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang

Haji Hazair on behalf of His Majesty's Government and His Excellency Sayyid Fakhri, Ambassador of Oman's on behalf of Oman's Government.

It was held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium. The MoU aims to encourage and expand cooperation in cultures, heritages and arts through programmes like cultures and arts exhibition and also in translation and production.

The MoU also aims to encourage and expand culture through libraries and museums namely:

- Encouraging collaboration in intangible heritage;
- Exchangeable scientific research, professionalism and knowledges that contribute to the cultures and arts programmes;
- Collaboration in library consists of expanding the collaboration between national libraries through exchange visit from professionals;
- Exchange of productions, documents copy and manuscripts related to both countries' history;
- Participation on Book Fair;
- Exchange professionalism on recovering and preserving manuscript and document indexing.
- Exchange professional visit and ancient items that related to both countries and eligible to laws and regulations that control the issues; and
- Exchangeable in recovering and preserving flexible and unflexible monuments;
- Encouraging exchange visit by different orchestra teams and arts teams;
- Encourage participation in exhibition and festival that will be held.



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and His Excellency Sayyid Fakhri, Ambassador of Oman after the signing of the MoU.

MIPR-MOFCOM signs MoU on agriculture

JERUDONG, April 19 - The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Commerce People's Republic of China (MOFCOM) on economic and trade cooperation in the field of agriculture.

Signing for His Majesty's Government was Permanent Secretary of MIPR, Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati while her counterpart was Mr. Chong Quan, Deputy China International Trade Representative.

The MoU signing ceremony held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong was witnessed by Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya and His Excellency Zheng Xianglin, Ambassador of China to Brunei Darussalam.

The scope and areas of cooperation aim to increase trade of agriculture products between both countries, expanding potential cooperation in agricultural field, promoting balanced and healthy development of bilateral trade and economic relations, and encouraging Chinese enterprises' participation in Brunei's economic diversification strategy.



The signing ceremony is witnessed by Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya.

participation in Brunei's economic diversification strategy.

The forms of cooperation within the MoU include carrying out economic and trade related cooperation in various forms of agricultural field accordingly to the market potential and principles, enhancing communication on agricultural cooperation as well as to strengthen cooperation in human resources development and provide relevant training for government officials and professional technical personnel.

\$372.93 million for Brunei's Fourth Quarter FDI 2011

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 21 - Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in Q4 2011 decreased by 22.9 per cent from \$483.64 million to \$372.93 million over the previous quarter. Compared to Quarter Four (Q4) 2010, FDI inflows increased by 39.4 per cent. The largest FDI came from the United Kingdom with an investment of \$237.71 million. Mining and Quarrying sector was the largest recipient of FDI inflows.

The largest share of total investment came from the United Kingdom (63.7 per cent). This was followed by Netherlands (16.7 per cent), Japan (10.7 per cent), Singapore (2.8 per cent), Malaysia (2.7 per cent) and USA (2.3 per cent).

Mining and Quarrying was the largest recipient of FDI inflows in Q4 2011 which accounted for 89.2 per cent or around \$332.75 million of total FDI inflows (Chart 2 & Annex 2). This was followed by Wholesale and Retail Trade (5.7 per cent), Manufacturing (4.0 per cent) and Construction (0.6 per cent). The remaining 0.5 per cent came from other sectors which comprised of Transport and Storage; Information and Communication; Financial and Insurance Activities; Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities; Administrative and Support Service Activities and Education.

For more information about the FDI Q4 2011 can be download from www.depd.gov.bn

World Glaucoma Week

KUALA BELAIT, April 22 - Brunei Darussalam celebrated National World Glaucoma Week 2012 in a ceremony held at Conference Hall, Municipal Department in Belait District.

This World Glaucoma Week carried the theme 'Don't Let Glaucoma Darken Your Life' while the national theme was 'Taking Glaucoma Care to the Periphery'.

Present as guest of honour was Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan.

The minister in his speech said that glaucoma is a complex challenge and advised the public to understand about the disease and take prevention steps.

Ministry of Health has equipped the hospitals in the country with the main equipment to detect and cure the disease; such as the introduction 'Ocular Coherence Tomography' machine at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital.

In providing eye care services to the citizens and residents of the country that live in remote areas, the ministry through its Ophthalmology Department has introduced a new eye care service system. This service is an eye care services for rural residents that act as early detection steps of eyesight health problems through the Mobile Eye Screening in a bus.

Through this preliminary screening, any complex cases detected will be forwarded for further treatment to RIPAS Hospital in the capital or the Suri Seri Begawan (SSB) Hospital in Kuala Belait.

The World Glaucoma Week aims to increase global awareness on the disease; and Brunei Darussalam through the ministry jointly supported the initiatives held annually in enhancing the knowledge and awareness and also together in preventing eye deflection.

Consumer Price Index (CPI), February 2012

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for February 2012 increased by 0.1 per cent over January 2012. This was due to the increased prices of Clothing and Footwear particularly clothing material; and shoes and other footwear. Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance also recorded an increase as a result of higher costs of furniture and furnishings. This was because prices have returned back to normal after the recent 'Brunei Salebration 2011' which ended on the February 5, 2012. Meanwhile, the CPI decreased by 0.3 per cent in January 2012 over December 2011.

On the other hand, decreases were recorded in Transport services due to lower costs of transport by air; and Recreation and Culture as a result of lower costs of package holidays and pilgrimages.

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

Note: 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 February 2012 are available from JPKE's website: www.depd.gov.bn.

10th National Sports Fiesta

BANDAR SERI EBGAWAN, April 3 - The 10th National Sports Fiesta will be held in September 2012.

The 28 sports event that will be competed are Aquatic, Athletic, Lawn Ball, Karate-Do, Silat, Sepak Takraw, Taekwondo, Wushu, Badminton, Netball, Football, Futsal, Top Spinning, Lumba Perahu, Tug-of-War, Kempo, Bowling, Bicycle, Sword Fight, Cue Sports, Golf, Basket Ball, Hockey, Pingpong, Tennis, Petanque, Chess and Soft Ball.

The sports tournament will be participated- by Brunei-Muara District, Belait District, Tutong District, Temburong District, Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Sports Council, Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) Sports Council, Schools, Higher Education Institutions, Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) Sdn. Bhd., Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA), Banking Associations and invitation teams.

The national sports fiesta is organised by the Department of Youth and Sports and was first introduced in 1981 and jointly conducted by National Sport Associations biennially.

Brunei hosts AWGCC meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 17 - Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Development became the host country for the 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC).

The meeting was held at The Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

The meeting was officiated by the Permanent Secretary (Administration and Finance) at the Ministry of Development, Awang Haji Muhammad Lufti bin Abdullah.

The Permanent Secretary said that the establishment of the Climate Change Unit in the Ministry of Development indicating their commitment to address the climate change. Hence, the principles of mitigation and adaptation to climate change to be mainstream into development plans, programmes and projects.

The AWGCC was one of the platforms and forums for ASEAN member countries to exchange ideas, information, knowledge and experience in handling regional also global related to climate change.

4th AUN-ACTS Steering Committee Meeting

TUNGKU LINK, April 3 - More than 20 delegations from ASEAN University Network-ASEAN Credit Transfer System (AUN-ACTS) had a meeting at the Institute of Leadership, Innovation and Advancement (ILIA) Building, Universiti Brunei Darussalam to discuss the AUN-ACTS 2011 Implementation Development; the current real implementation challenges about the student movement in the ASEAN region; the first year researches and assesses of ACTS implementation; the summary of the appraisal and research; the discussion about yearly working plan 2012-2013; and the provision for the 5th AUN-ACTS Meeting 2013.

Also present at the committee meeting were AUN and AUN-ACTS Secretariat and UBD officers.

Ministry of Finance introduces 'STARS'

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 19 - The Revenue Division of Ministry of Finance introduced local portal known as the System for Tax Administration and Revenue Services (STARS).

The system is an initiative by the Revenue Division of Ministry of Finance to enhance the efficiency of taxpayer services by providing online facilities to submit tax returns and pay the company's tax due via Internet Banking.

The Revenue Division introduced the accreditations forms of income tax that was created to help the tax payer in checking the mistakes, auto-calculating according to the latest tax regulation and company's initial details or information.

For more information on the system, tax payer can reach them at +(673) 238 3933 or 238 0651, during office hours or e-mail to revenue@mof.gov.bn

Minister of Religious Affairs attends Annual Arrangement Pilgrimage Meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 21 - Minister of Religious Affairs, Pengiran Dato Dr. Haji Mohammad attended the Annual Arrangement Pilgrimage Meeting at Saudi Arabia.

The meeting will discuss arrangement affairs and haj preparation, welfare and comfortability of the pilgrimage and other matters related to flight arrangement, pilgrimage placement at Madinah Al-Munawwarah, Mekah Al-Mukarramah and Masya'ar, Mina.

The Religious Affairs Minister will also visit the Zamazamah United Office in Mekah, responsible in providing zamzam water to the pilgrimage.

Brunei Darussalam contingent heads for AASAM 2012

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 29 - Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Contingent will be headed for Australia for the Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting (AASAM) 2012 together with more than 15 countries and over 300 shooters.

The AASAM 2012 is an annual event for land forces armies in the region scheduled to be held from May 1 until 20 at Puckapunyal Military Area, Victoria.

Upon departure, a national flag presentation was held at the Brunei International Airport and handed over to the Head of the RBAF Contingent, Captain Edham bin Harlip.

AASAM 2012 is designed to allow for the assessment of current in-service small arms system capabilities, equipment and targetry, and turning analysis of combat shooting techniques, weapon training doctrine, and small arms practices.

Among the participating teams are United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Canada, Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, Republic of Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of the Philippines, Japan and Brunei Darussalam.

Did you know that...

- Oil exploration in Brunei began in 1899 when oil seepage was discovered at Ayer Berkunchi.
- Between 1900 and 1920, catch was Brunei's main export before the discovery of oil in 1929.
- The Brunei Police Force was officially formed on January 1, 1921 immediately after the 1920 Police Enactment was passed.
- At the end of National Development Plan (NDP) 2007-2012 period, the production from fisheries sector are expected to produce about 30,745 metric tonne.
- The Royal Regalia Building was officiated on September 30, 1992 by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

>> 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.brunelair.com)

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